

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY CRIME PREVENTION ACT

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Juvenile Accountability and Crime Prevention Act of 1999. This act will provide communities with the ability to take a comprehensive approach to holding first and second time non-violent offenders accountable for their actions. Additionally, the bill allows communities—in a coordinated effort—to treat offenders on an individual basis, maximizing the chances that a juvenile will not re-offend.

The bill provides funding for Juvenile Accountability Coordinators who will:

Conduct an in-depth assessment of juvenile immediately upon arrest;

Contact the offender's parents or legal guardian, provide parents and guardians information on proceedings, needed services, and programs to help turn around the offender; and

Work with the juvenile, their parents, school officials, and law enforcement officials to develop an accountability plan for the juvenile. Failure of the juvenile to adhere to the plan would result in a referral back to juvenile court. Sanctions in the plan could include restitution to the victim, victim/offender mediation, community service, drug treatment and counseling, and a commitment to remain drug free.

In many localities, the courts are unable to provide swift accountability and individual attention to offenders. Sanctions specifically targeted to the individual juvenile which reflect the crime committed will decrease the likelihood of that juvenile re-offending. Additionally, bringing certain offenders out of the court system expedites the process and allows the courts to deal with more serious offenders.

This bill will help ensure that first and second time juvenile offenders don't fall through the cracks. Unlike other juvenile diversion programs, Juvenile Accountability Coordinators are with the juvenile every step of the way—from the time of arrest to the disposition of the case. They remain the focal point between parents, DAs, judges, schools, and the offender.

Should a second offense occur, coordinators provide consistency and detailed working knowledge of the offender and his or her circumstances.

This program has proven to be extremely successful on a smaller scale in Oregon. I would like to give other communities the opportunity to provide swift accountability and intervention to troubled young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, due to mechanical difficulties with my flight from my district I missed rollcall vote 428. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

BIPARTISAN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 417) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to reform the financing of campaigns for elections for Federal office, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment being offered by Congressmen BEREUTER and WICKER.

This amendment would bar legal permanent residents of the United States from being able to contribute to campaigns for Federal offices.

Legal permanent residents of this country are here in the United States working, paying taxes, fighting in the military, and they have even sacrificed their lives for this country. Twenty percent of Congressional Medal of Honor winners from our Nation's past wars were either legal permanent residents or naturalized citizens. In 1997, about 7,500 new recruits of the U.S. Armed Forces were legal permanent residents and currently, at least 20,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces are legal permanent residents.

Legal permanent residents are often here in the United States to be with their close family members, to take jobs that no qualified U.S. citizens filled after the job was advertised, or to escape persecution. Unlike U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents must reside in the United States or risk having their residency status revoked. Legal permanent residents often send their children, many of whom are U.S. citizens by virtue of their birth in this country, to our Nation's public schools. They often participate in community and civic activities. As the "citizens in training" of our country, they have a stake in the future of our country and this amendment seeks to unfairly and unconstitutionally shut them out of the political process.

This amendment restricts the right of legal permanent residents to express their political views, a right which is guaranteed to them, and to us all, in the first amendment of our Constitution. Passage of this amendment will send a message to thousands of legal perma-

nent residents that we as a nation want them to contribute to our economy, join our military, fight and die for our country but we do not want them to exercise their basic first amendment right.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in the landmark case *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), ruled that campaign contributions are speech protected by the first amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Nowhere in our Constitution does it state that the freedoms and protections provided in the Constitution apply to U.S. citizens only. The U.S. Supreme Court in *Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356 (1886) affirmed this sentiment by stating that, "... the Constitution is not confined to the protections of citizens." Also, in the case of *Bridges v. Wixon*, the Supreme Court held that the "freedom of speech and press is accorded aliens residing in this country." A letter sent to every Member of Congress, signed by 100 Constitutional law professors who teach all across the United States, affirms that the Bereuter-Wicker amendment is unconstitutional. It would be unconscionable and beyond the scope of power of this Congress to pass this amendment and rob a whole class of people of a constitutional right.

I have tried to understand what my colleagues, Misters BEREUTER and WICKER, hope to achieve by introducing this amendment. Do they really believe that their amendment would keep foreign money out of Federal elections? I have read their amendment and I have analyzed what it would do the Federal election law. This amendment in no way makes it more difficult for foreign money to enter into the Federal electoral process.

Money from foreign sources is already illegal and this amendment does not change that fact. It has been expressed that we should pass this amendment to place a greater distance between foreign money and our Federal elections, that people who have not expressed a permanent allegiance to the United States should not have the opportunity to influence our Federal elections and that if permanent legal residents want a chance to express their voice in Federal elections they should just become U.S. citizens. These reasons are designed solely to be scare tactics and none of them hold any water.

If a foreign person wanted to illegally contribute money to a Federal election it is not necessary to find a legal permanent resident to be the conduit, any person, including any citizen could be used. There is no basis to assume that legal permanent residents are more likely to launder money from foreign sources than U.S. citizens. Therefore, how can the proponents of this amendment believe that it puts any greater distance between foreign money and federal elections? Permanent legal residents, by virtue of their legitimizing their residency status, have expressed a permanent allegiance to the United States. They also express a permanent allegiance to the United States by volunteering to join our military and by sacrificing their lives in the defense of this country. To state that legal permanent residents should only be allowed to exercise their

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

constitutional right of free speech when they become U.S. citizens displays a dangerous misunderstanding of constitutional law and overlooks the fact that many legal permanent residents are currently waiting for INS processing to become naturalized U.S. citizens.

This amendment will also have a discriminatory and embarrassing effect on the rights of U.S. citizens who are ethnic minorities. The amendment penalizes candidates who accept contributions from legal permanent residents. Therefore, in order to avoid violating the law, candidates will consider suspect any contribution contributed by a person with an ethnic or foreign sounding name. The contributor will likely be asked to verify his or her citizenship status. The prospect of having to endure humiliation such as this will make minorities more reluctant to participate in the political process. Considering that Asian-Americans and Hispanic-Americans already have low-voter turnout and political participation statistics, the effect this amendment will have is distressing. The effects will be particularly disastrous in those districts, like mine, that contain large minority populations. This amendment forces candidates to discriminate against people solely because of the way they look, because of a last name that is ethnic or foreign sounding, or because of their place of national origin. Any class of citizens having to prove their citizenship in order to exercise their basic first amendment right is an insult to all U.S. citizens.

This amendment which unconstitutionally denies legal permanent residents the protection of the first amendment right of free speech and which will cause a discriminatory and insulting effect on the rights of U.S. citizens who are ethnic minorities must be rejected. I urge my colleagues to vote against the Bereuter-Wicker amendment.

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR
WILLIAM A. NIERING

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express the sorrow felt by many across eastern Connecticut following the passing of Professor William A. Niering. Professor Niering was an extraordinary teacher, a pioneer in the modern environmental movement and a great American.

Professor Niering was a botanist by training and longtime professor at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut. He was the first president of The Nature Conservancy. Founding in 1951, the Conservancy operates the largest system of private nature preserves in the world, including 1,500 in this country alone. As President of this organization, now one of the largest conservation groups in America, Professor Niering was an early leader of the modern environmental movement.

Perhaps more than his work on behalf of conserving natural resources across the country, Professor Niering will be remembered in southeastern Connecticut as a beloved teacher who was dedicated to his students. He had an easy-going style and the ability to make extremely complex scientific principles understandable and exciting.

I have submitted an editorial which appeared in The New London Day which vividly describes Professor Niering and his many contributions to his students, his community and his country. His legacy will endure through his efforts to safeguard the natural bounty that makes our nation unique in the world and through the countless students he taught.

[From the New London Day, Sept. 1, 1999]

PROFESSOR WILLIAM A. NIERING

Professor William A. Niering died Monday as he had lived his life: exciting Connecticut College students about the joy of learning and discovery, and exhorting them to reach to the fullest of their potentials and the best of their instincts.

Dr. Niering, a botanist, led an accomplished life, and was recognized internationally for his research and environmental activism. But in spite of that celebrity, nothing pleased him more than working with young people in science and conservation. He died just after giving a lecture to students on the subjects of good citizenship and environmental stewardship. That was his commitment, educator and good citizen to the end.

Connecticut College has a consistent history of producing scholarly academicians who are also outstanding teachers. Dr. Niering was among the best of these throughout the college's long history. It would therefore be most appropriate for the college to create a special scholarship in his name, for it was his service to young people that he cherished above all else. Countless people would want to help create that memorial.

Dr. Niering, who with his longtime Connecticut College colleague Richard Goodwin was active in natural conservation and environmental causes, was the first president of The Nature Conservancy. The organization is now one of the major environmental institutions in this country.

Dr. Niering wrote a field guide on plants and flowers for the Audubon Society and organized one of the first college environmental studies programs. He served not only as an adviser to high-powered national groups, but more important, he served the southeastern Connecticut community in myriad ways that protected and enhanced the environment. He always had time to help local groups with environmental issues.

Quiet, modest and sincere to a fault, Dr. Niering nonetheless could demonstrate outrage when he saw people doing intentional damage to the environment. He never talked down to people whose scientific knowledge and education were much less than his own. Naturally easygoing, he had a relaxed style when he spoke. He always managed to explain complicated topics in terms the average person could understand.

Legions of college students flocked to his courses, both for the excellence of his teaching and the engaging way in which he welcomed students and helped them flourish.

Dr. Claire L. Gaudiani, Connecticut College president, explained his values well when she said of Dr. Niering, "His generosity of spirit, his enthusiasm and his modesty were legendary."

The people of southeastern Connecticut join Dr. Niering's colleagues at the college in remembering this good and generous man whose life represented the best of what this country has to offer.

RECOGNIZING THE "SUITING UP FOR SUCCESS" PROJECT FOR STUDENTS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Suiting Up for Success project, which is a professional attire drive that benefits successful Fresno City College welfare-to-work students.

In 1998, management consultant and human resource specialist, Sue McCombs of McCombs & Associates created "Suiting Up for Success", in response to the Central San Joaquin Valley communities double digit unemployment rates. "Suiting Up for Success" is a professional attire drive that benefits successful Fresno College welfare-to-work students that has approximately 1,000 students enrolled. Last year, 3,000 suits were collected. The 1999 goal is to collect 5,000 suits. All Fresno area business professionals are challenged to donate unwanted men's and women's suits, blouses, skirts, men's shirts, slacks and ties. Business attire collected is made available through a "professional closet" operated and maintained by Welfare-to-Work students. The only beneficiaries of the "Suiting Up for Success" campaign are successful Fresno City College Welfare Reform students (graduates).

The project goals are to increase awareness of the welfare reform initiative and its impact on business owners. To provide our employees the opportunity to support and participate in the local welfare reform initiative. And to support and encourage current Fresno City College welfare program participants.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the "Suiting Up for Success" project, as they reach out to students who are less fortunate to have professional attire. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing "Suiting Up for Success" many more years of continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. ESTHER
DON TANG AND MS. PATTI TANG
CROWLEY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Esther Don Tang and Ms. Patti Tang Crowley, this year's recipients of The Arthritis Foundation's Humanitarian Award.

In Tucson, Arizona, the names of this outstanding mother and daughter team are synonymous with community service, caring and activism. Between them, they have dedicated almost 100 years to meeting the needs to Tucson's children, minorities, elderly, chronically ill, and economically disadvantaged. Additionally, both women have worked diligently to improve educational opportunities and cultural enrichment in Southern Arizona.

To list their many memberships, awards, and recognitions of accomplishment would take several pages. Such a listing, although most impressive, would not truly convey the magnitude of their tenacity, positive attitude

and goodwill toward others. Their wit, charm, and warmth are legendary and have been their greatest weapons in their fight to make life better for others. These ladies have earned the respect and admiration of all work for social justice and aiding those in need.

These women have shown what can be accomplished when compassion, empathy and kindness transcend the family unit and are shared with the community. I am proud that this mother-daughter team has been such an ambassador of caring for the Tucson, Pima County and Southern Arizona community.

I applaud The Arthritis Foundation for recognizing the outstanding efforts of these amazing women and for designating Ms. Esther Don Tang and Ms. Patti Tang Crowley as its 1999 Humanitarian Award recipients. In closing, I commend these ladies for all of their admirable accomplishments and especially their societal contributions.

HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OF JANE WHITAKER

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, the foundation of every community is built by those who give of themselves to others. Today, I would like to pay tribute to one such worker who has served the community of Glendale, California for more than thirty years—Jane Whitaker.

Jane moved to Glendale in 1969 with her young family and immediately became an active member of the community. For three decades, she has set the standard in our community for service and sacrifice.

Jane has been an active member of the California Parent Teacher Association for many years. She was elected to the Glendale Unified School District Board of Education in 1981 and served until 1997. Three years of her tenure she lead the board as its president.

During her tenure on the Glendale School Board, Jane was instrumental in developing many innovative programs, including Glendale Healthy Kids, a collaborative effort between the school district, local hospitals and health care professionals to provide students with medical and dental care without cost.

In addition, Jane gave her time and her love to numerous community organizations including the YMCA, the Greater Glendale Child Care Council, the Presidents Advisory Council of Glendale and the Glendale Neighborhood Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Glendale, California home. What makes Glendale so welcoming as a hometown is the caliber of its residents. Jane Whitaker proudly displays this tradition—with her deeds—and I ask my colleagues here today to join me in saluting her lifetime of service, dedication and commitment to our community.

TRIBUTE TO LABOR LEADER HENRY NICHOLAS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor labor leader Henry Nicholas. Henry Nicholas has emerged as a national spokesman in the struggle to preserve quality patient care and is regarded as one of the most influential African-American leaders in Pennsylvania.

Born in rural Fayette, MS, in 1936, Henry Nicholas is a man representative of vision, advocacy, and triumph. After leaving the Deep South while still a young man, Nicholas moved to New York City where he began working as a hospital orderly in 1957. Two years later Nicholas was organizing his coworkers into what was then Local 1199 of the Drug and Hospitals Employees Union. That same year, he played a key role in the strike of hospital union workers that resulted in union contracts for thousands of New York City hospital employees.

While he started as a union volunteer, in 1961 Nicholas was named a union organizer and quickly moved up the union ranks. Assistant director of the 1199 National Organizing Committee, Nicholas led successful hospital workers, organizing campaigns in Pittsburgh, Ohio, and Detroit. He also directed a 113-day hospital strike in Charleston, SC, which was regarded as a national landmark in the struggle for civil rights for African-Americans. As a direct result of that success, the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees was established and Nicholas was elected its first secretary-treasurer.

Two years after he arrived in Philadelphia with the task of organizing health care workers, he won contracts for over 5,000 employees working in the city's major health care institutions. In 1974, due to the success of the Nicholas' organizing efforts, District 1199C, the Philadelphia local of the national union, was officially chartered and Nicholas was elected president. Today 1199C represents more than 15,000 hospital and health care workers in 110 health care institutions in the greater Philadelphia area, and five counties in southern New Jersey. As a result of the phenomenal growth of District 1199C, the union created a training and upgrading program for health care employees that has become a national model.

IN HONOR OF THE OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH PARISH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church as it celebrates its 50th anniversary of the opening and building of the parish elementary school on September 22, 1999.

On September 6, 1949, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church opened its doors to the Cleve-

land community under the leadership of its first pastor, Father Vincent Caruso, O.de M. Father Vincent Caruso, who on this day celebrates his 94th birthday, was born on September 22, 1905 in Italy. He was ordained as a Priest on September 24, 1927 in Orvieto, Italy. He then made the long journey across the Atlantic to the United States in 1927 and was assigned to Saint Rocco where he soon began to take on more responsibility at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Father Vincent Caruso, realized the need for a Catholic School to teach children of the parish neighborhood about the Gospel and give them a solid education so that they may grow up to live and know their human dignity. Father Vincent Caruso continued his service to the community which culminated in the opening of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel School for elementary students on September 6, 1949.

Trinitarians Sister Mary Valentine Delfino was the first principal of the school and has continued teaching and serving children ever since. She has taught all grades from 1 to 7. Sister Valentine Delfino was also a principal and teacher at St. Marian's in Cleveland, at Mother of Divine Grace in Philadelphia, PA and at Saint Rocco's in Cleveland. She is presently the regional delegate for the Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity in the USA, residing at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Euclid, OH.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring Father Vincent Caruso and Sister Mary Valentine Delfino for their leadership and dedication to the children and the families of the Cleveland area. Their piety, sincerity and devoted service to God and to the local parish enabled the expansion and development of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Grade School which now celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

UKRAINE ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Ukraine's presidential elections will be held in a little over a month, on October 31. These elections will be an important indicator in charting Ukraine's course over the next 4 years. The stakes are high. Will Ukraine continue to move—even if at a slow and inconsistent pace—in the direction of the supremacy of law over politics, a market economy, and integration with the Euro-Atlantic community? Or will Ukraine regress in the direction of the closed economic and political system that existed during Soviet times? Clearly, the outcome of the elections will have significant implications for United States policy toward Ukraine.

Despite the many internal and external positive changes that have occurred in Ukraine since its independence in 1991, including progress in creating a democratic, tolerant society and the significant role played in the stability and security of Europe, Ukraine still has a long way to go in building a sustainable democracy underpinned by the rule of law. Specifically, Ukraine needs to improve its judiciary and criminal justice system, reduce bureaucratic arbitrariness and rid itself of the stifling

menace of corruption. Indeed, corruption is exacting a huge toll on Ukrainian institutions, eroding confidence in government and support for economic reforms, and discouraging domestic and foreign investment.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about reports of violations in the conduct of the election campaign, including in the signature-gathering process and inappropriate meddling by officials, especially on the local level. I am also troubled by governmental actions against the free media, including the recent seizure of bank accounts of STB independent television and the suspension of four independent television stations in Crimea. The harassment of the print and electronic media is inconsistent with OSCE commitments. It undermines Ukraine's overall positive reputation with respect to human rights and democracy, including its generally positive record in previous elections.

The Helsinki Commission, which I chair, was in the forefront of supporting respect for human rights and self-determination in Ukraine during the dark days of Soviet rule. We have viewed—and still view—Ukraine's independence as a milestone in Europe's history. However, in order to consolidate its independence and reinforce internal cohesion, Ukraine needs to speed its transition to democracy and market economy. It needs to work toward greater compliance with OSCE standards and norms. The OSCE Office for Project Coordination in Ukraine can be a useful tool to assist Ukraine in this regard and I hope that the Ukrainian government will take advantage of and benefit from the OSCE presence.

Despite frustrations with certain aspects of Ukraine's reality, it is important for both the Congress and the Executive Branch to continue to support an independent, democratic Ukraine, both in terms of policies designed to strengthen United States-Ukraine relations, as well as with assistance designed to genuinely strengthen democratic and free-market development. The key is to be patient, but persistent, in encouraging progress.

THANK YOU, HARRY MOSGROVE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pause a moment to recognize a man who has contributed a great deal to the community of Colorado. The man is Harry Mosgrove. Harry has been president and CEO of Copper Mountain Ski Resort since 1987. In the 12 years since he took this office Copper Mountain has enjoyed great success. The 1995–96 ski season was their best ever. They have also begun many programs, such as "West Fest", and building projects that have already enhanced the services Copper Mountain offers its guests. Perhaps his most significant contribution was to help Copper Mountain smoothly join with Intrawest, its new parent company. Now, after 18 successful years with Copper Mountain, Mr. Mosgrove has announced his retirement. He is getting ready to be a grandfather and is going to take the time for a well-deserved rest.

The important thing about Mr. Mosgrove, however, is that he didn't start at the top. In

1981 he came on to the team as manager of real estate. From there he moved to the positions of executive vice president and chief operating officer. He has also served as chairman of Colorado Ski Country USA. He will continue to be an active member of the executive committee and the board of directors as well.

Harry Mosgrove has been called a "guiding light" and has also been said to be "a man of great integrity and vision." Business and our communities as a whole could use more people with Harry Mosgrove's attributes. For all of these reasons, I am offering my congratulations to Harry Mosgrove on his retirement but, more than that, I am thanking him for all he has done throughout his years of service. I know that he will be missed at Copper Mountain and I wish him well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker due to mechanical difficulties with my flight from my district I missed rollcall vote 427. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2898

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, H.R. 2898, which lowers the minimum age for individuals without children to be eligible for the earned income tax credit to 21 years-of-age.

The earned income tax credit was established in 1975 to provide cash aid to working parents with low incomes who care for dependent children. In 1994, this credit was extended to include low-income workers with no children.

Many workers today struggle to make a living wage. This credit provides these workers with a financial boost to help them in their struggles. It either reduces their tax liability, thus putting more money in their take-home pay, or it provides an actual cash benefit. This extra money is a great help for these taxpayers, and I fully support this credit.

However, it is extremely unfair to deprive someone in this financial situation the benefits of the earned income tax credit merely because he or she has not reached the age of 25.

But this is exactly what the current law does. A taxpayer who otherwise meets the income requirements of tax credit is not eligible if he or she is under the age of 25.

Congress justified this age requirement to prevent students, who are otherwise supported by their parents, from becoming eligible for the credit. However, by focusing on the age of these students, the age requirement is depriving thousands of young Americans who are truly struggling financially from receiving the credit.

In our inner cities and our rural areas, many young men and women do not have the luxury

of going to college. After graduation, they must find jobs in order to support themselves. And, unfortunately, the jobs that one can get with only a high school diploma are not paying a living wage.

My bill corrects the problem of the earned income tax credit by simply reducing the minimum age requirement to 21 years of age.

I urge my colleagues to support our young workers by supporting H.R. 2898.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN W. BURKHART: CHAMPION FOR INCREASED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that education is the great equalizer. No one can deny that an education unlocks the doors of opportunity. Few have unlocked and held open the doors of higher education more than John W. Burkhart of Indianapolis, Indiana. Burkhart, who died in Indianapolis last month, was a true pioneer in opening up access to higher education.

In 1960—five years before the Federal student loan program was established as part of the Federal Higher Education Act—John Burkhart organized USA Funds to privately guarantee student loans. USA Funds later became USA Group, which is now the nation's largest student loan guarantor and administrator. Through USA Funds' and USA Group's loan guarantees, students who would normally be unable to afford high education, can now receive a higher education on credit. The concept of "college on credit," pioneered by Burkhart and other visionaries like him, has spurred a substantial increase in the number of Americans with access to higher education. In 1965, only 1.5 million students entered institutions of higher education. That number increased to an impressive 2.2 million students by 1996. Certainly there are a variety of factors which contribute to such an increase, but the efforts of John Burkhart in fostering educational opportunity cannot be discounted.

Burkhart's vision helped pave the way for thousands of college students to improve the quality of their lives. Indeed, as domestic and global economic competition grow, America will greatly benefit from the increased rolls of highly educated Americans. John W. Burkhart not only unlocked the doors of opportunity to higher education for generations of Americans, but he also raised the expectation that future generations might also pass over the door's threshold.

A HALF-CENTURY OF "MOMENTS TO REMEMBER"

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the big 5–0 can be very traumatic for some, but others relish the nostalgia-filled meandering down memory lane. So it is for Brecksville Women's Club (BWC), as the ladies gather to celebrate the group's half-century milestone.

In the gold glow of post World War II, Brecksville Women's Club was born—an outgrowth of the Women's Committee of Brecksville Little Theater. Believing the community needed a cultural, philanthropic and social outlet for women in the area, 10 young women met on September 26, 1949 and founded the club. The years since then have proved it was a wise move.

In the golden glow of a half-century of "making members useful to society and helpful to each other", BWC will mark the Big One September 23. Fiftieth Anniversary Chairman Annette Gorris and committee have arranged for the organization to take over Swingos-on-the-Lake's entire restaurant that afternoon. The Four Lads will guide the BWC lassies in a reminiscent sail through "Moments to Remember."

"Although the celebration is a private party for members only, we are expecting recognition on the state and national levels" said President Joan Kules. "Governor Bob Taft has proclaimed Sunday, September 26 as Brecksville Women's Club Day. George Gintoli, CEO of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare System (NBHS) is to present us with that proclamation and one from NBHS, where our members have volunteered for 50 years," she explained. At the beginning of this year Brecksville and Broadview Heights Mayors Jerry Hruby and Leo Bender issued proclamations naming "1999 Brecksville Women's Club's 50th Anniversary Year."

The formal presentations will be brief however and lighted-hearted merriment is expected to prevail as members recollect anecdotes about volunteering, fundraising, social gatherings and special events. Some are expected to appear in skits recalling humorous incidents chairmen have encountered in raising thousands of dollars to help hundreds of causes. Those attending will be asked to write a brief greeting to be put into a time capsule which will be opened by BWC in the year 2005.

When the club was founded late in '49, the world was on the verge of a new decade and now, 50 years later, the world is on the verge of a new century. Marian Huefner, BWC's second President, and Mary Hoffman, BWC's third president, recall some turbulent but fun times for the fledgling group which numbered 35 by the end of 1950–51. (Of course, Brecksville was only a village then—it would be 12 years later that it reached city status with a population of 5,000.)

In the 50's era when saddle shoes, poodle skirts and malt shakes were "it", the group often held social events with their husbands as guests. Marian, laughing, recalls being in charge of refreshments for one of these events, arriving at the party with her husband and not thinking about the desserts she left at home until it was refreshment time. Mary says she misses the camaraderie of the smaller membership when everybody knew everybody else. Today with a membership of 300 women from 35 Northeast Ohio communities and Florida, it is more difficult to know everyone. Both ladies treasure friendships they have made throughout the years and as charter members they will be awarded Lifetime Memberships at the celebration. The late Betty Hoffman, first president and founding leader, was awarded a Lifetime Membership when the Club marked its 30th anniversary in 1979. There are currently 19 past presidents on the active roster

and 31 ladies who have belonged for 25 years or longer!

Since 1949, a chief money-making event has traditionally been a luncheon fashion show. At first these were in the form of garden parties with the members doing all the work. "There was no such thing as rain insurance and the weather was undependable," said Orah DeHamm, past president and a member for more than 40 years. She remembers scrambling into a member's home when the rain hit the backyard party.

These events were moved indoors, but "minor calamities" also happened that weren't weather related. "Old-timers" recall one such incident when the food committee members all plugged in their electric roasters and blew out the lights in St. Basil's Church Hall.

More often, the fashion fundraisers came off without a hitch. "One year we each roasted turkeys at home and combined the meat in a main dish salad," said Margaret Mansbery, a past president. "This was a lovely affair we held at Camp Cheerful's main auditorium in the Metro Parks." The fashion show fundraisers have been held at various places—the Holiday Inn, Landerhaven, Windham Hotel, etc. BWC's 50th major fundraiser is set for May 1, 2000 at the Hilton Hotel across from Summit Mall.

In the fall of 1973, a second fundraising event—the President's Ball—became a part of the club's activities. After 10 years the ball's popularity declined and since then a variety of money-making affairs have been staged such as card parties, holiday bazaars, Day at the Races and a Celebrity Fingerpainting Auction. Profits from the fundraiser go into the philanthropic fund and are distributed at the end of each club year. BWC has given away more than \$150,000 to a variety of causes with the largest percentage to education in the form of scholarships and education awards.

In addition to monetary help, BWC purchased a washer and dryer for patients at the old Broadview Center, bought books for the library, obtained eyeglasses for needy students and provided for families who needed assistance during the Christmas season. When a fire damaged Brecksville Old Town Hall, the club gave \$2,000 for kitchen repairs. It has purchased paintings for both Brecksville and Broadview Heights city halls.

In its first year, the club began helping the less fortunate, staging monthly parties at Hawthornden State Hospital (now Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare System). Former president Mary Ann Celebrezze has chaired this project for the last five years and each month she and her workers take Bingo games, prizes and refreshments to the facility for the mentally ill.

Ruth McMahon, a NBHS volunteer for many years, remembers that in the early days the parties were held in the evenings and in the segregated cottages—dancing and singing with the male patients and playing games with the female patients. "In those days it was not unusual for a female patient to strip naked," Ruth said. "We would just ignore her and a staff member would take over." Ruth also recalls one snowy evening the volunteer group came in the back entrance and the gate was closed they went to leave. There was nothing they could do but back up the steep hill to get off the grounds. Nowadays that gate is closed and the parties are in the afternoon with mixed groups.

Throughout the years, BWC members have served as nannies for the babies of unwed mothers at Marycrest School and helped with the mentally handicapped at the old Broadview Center.

"In the early '70s, BWC received a great deal of recognition from the Federation of Women's Clubs of Cleveland for its volunteer work and types of projects," said Cecile Clarenbach, a former president. "We won the first place award among 45 clubs numerous times over the years for our philanthropic events and volunteer efforts."

The Federation was dissolved in the early '90s with the decline of women's clubs making BWC rather unique for its longevity and healthy operations.

"We had baby-sitting service for our members in the '70s," said Rita Morris, another past president. "The cost of the baby-sitter was partly subsidized by the club so young mothers could attend the meetings," she explained. Nowadays, many of these members' children are grown. The group no longer prepares their own lunches and for the past seven years has considered St. Michael's Woodside Party Center as its headquarters.

Many friendships have been built up in participating in bowling, bridge, golfing, antiquing, special lunch outings, bus tours, Cleveland Orchestra Concert series, and theatrical productions. These and many more activities through the years will give those attending the "Moments to Remember" celebration a true sense of renewed sisterhood and commitment to BWC.

H.R. 2116, VETERANS MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, America's veterans are forgotten far too often. My colleagues and I are committed to protecting veterans' programs and ensuring that our nation honors its commitment to our men and women in the military. To do anything less would be to abandon the very principles that veterans fought so hard to preserve.

We are committed to securing our veterans' future and are working now to provide funding to honor our promise to them. Last week the House of Representatives approved the Veterans Administration/Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, which contained a \$1.7 billion increase for veterans health care, totaling \$196 billion.

Yesterday, Congress passed the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act, which expands veterans eligibility for care and dramatically improves the care provided to veterans in their homes. The expanded care includes geriatric evaluations, nursing home care, adult day health care, and other types of home health care. The act also requires the Veterans Administration to operate and maintain a national program of extended services.

The Veterans Millennium Health Care Act coupled with the funds provided in our annual veterans appropriations legislation, affirms our nation's appreciation for our aging veterans and our commitment to provide them with the health care they will need in the coming years.

I thank my colleagues for supporting veterans by voting in favor of this crucial legislation.

MR. RAY ARVIZU, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE U.S. HCC

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ray Arvizu's recent election to Chair the Board of Directors for the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC). I am confident that the experience, knowledge and passion Mr. Arvizu brings with him will ensure the continued growth and effectiveness of the USHCC.

For more than 15 years, Mr. Arvizu has pledged his time and talents to promote and elevate marketing to Hispanics. In recent years, Mr. Arvizu has guided his company, Arvizu Promotions and Marketing Events, in Phoenix, Arizona, onto the short list of Arizona's most successful ad agencies. From the beginning, hard work and dedication to be the best have been Mr. Arvizu's hallmark.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Arvizu has been active within the Hispanic and local communities throughout his career. He currently serves on several distinguished boards, including: the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix, Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and the Grand Canyon Minority Council. He is also the Co-Chair of the National Community of Latino Leadership Forum and prior to his election to Chair the USHCC, Mr. Arvizu served as the Vice-Chair of the Chamber.

As the former Vice-Chair of the Chamber and successful businessman, Mr. Arvizu has demonstrated the foresight and creative energy which make him an asset in all his endeavors. Without a doubt, these traits will serve him well as he continues to fulfill the USHCC mission: To advocate, promote and facilitate the success of Hispanic businesses.

I wish him the best of luck as he leads the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce into the new millennium.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF ARMENIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia (NCOA) for their performances around the world and genuine cultural representation of their country.

The NCOA consists of 25 of the most accomplished instrumentalists in the young republic under the baton of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Aram Gharabekian. They have been honored with great success in the past, such as representing Armenia in 1997 at the Cultural Capital of Europe Festival in Thessaloniki, Greece. And in December 1998, the orchestra released a compact disk through PolyGram/Germany presenting a synthesis of

ancient and contemporary works of Armenian composers. At home, the NCOA performs every third week at the Komitas Chamber Music Hall in Yerevan. In addition, the orchestra performs around the globe and has toured Europe, South America, and the United States.

Conductor Gharabekian was born in the Old World in 1955 and moved to the United States as a youth. He received his Master's Degree in Music Composition from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and engaged in postgraduate studies at Mainz University in Germany. Maestro Gharabekian's numerous honors include the Lucien Wulsin Performance Award for the best concert aired on National Public Radio; the American Society of Composers' Award for adventuresome programming; the Harvard Music Association's "Best Performance Award," and the Boston Globe's "Best of the Year" designation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the achievements of the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, for being one of the leading instrumental groups of the Republic of Armenia and sharing such beautiful cultural music across the world. It is Principal Conductor Aram Gharabekian's exceptional leadership and devotion that has warranted this recognition, and has lead to the success of the orchestra. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia and Conductor Gharabekian many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, due to mechanical difficulties with my flight from my district I missed rollcall vote 429. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

HONORING COAST GUARD VOLUNTEER JIM CLOUD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the citizens of Crescent City in honoring Jim Cloud, who for 6 years served without pay as Crescent City Harbor's sole marine safety examiner for the U.S. Coast Guard.

During the August district work period, Jim was honored by his volunteer peers and the Coast Guard for his dedication to marine safety. Indeed, Jim was known for taking his job seriously and, as the Coast Guard said during the ceremony honoring him, Jim "contributed to the overall safety of more than 425 fishermen and 170 fishing vessels."

Crescent City Harbor is home to more than 25 percent of the fishing vessel fleet between the Oregon border and San Francisco Bay. The coastal waters fished by these vessels are treacherous and the weather ever-changing. As such, the role of the marine safety examiner is critical to ensuring that commercial

vessels are seaworthy and prepared for any emergency.

For Jim, the work was a labor of love. Coming from a long family history of seamen, Jim joined the Brookings Coast Guard Auxiliary in the mid-1980's. During his tenure, he assisted the Coast Guard in search and rescues and teaching boating and safety classes.

But, in particular, his service as a marine safety examiner will always be remembered and appreciated. In conferring its Award of Operational Merit, the Coast Guard acknowledged that Jim's efforts "helped reduce the number of fishermen deaths, injuries, as well as property loss and environmental damage."

To which Jim replied "I feel good about doing my little part. It was a good deal for the harbor and a good deal for me."

Thank you, Jim, for a job well done.

TRAGEDY IN TAIWAN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in great sadness to recognize the enormous tragedy that has stricken the citizens of Taiwan. I extend condolences to the Ambassador and the numerous families that have been devastated by this earthquake. The people of this country have been great allies to the United States and their ongoing struggle for independence parallels the many perils experienced by my people here in this country.

I have visited Taiwan on numerous occasions and have always been warmly received by both its government officials and private citizens, and believe that it is only right that I continue to carry the torch of friendship during their time of need. While the United States is currently recuperating from the aftermath of its own natural disaster, it is important that we share in Taiwan's grief. I have personally been in contact with the Ambassador and have pledged my full support toward helping them recover from this tragedy. I ask my colleagues in the House to follow my act of solidarity and pledge their support to our comrades in Taiwan.

THE HERMELIN BRAIN TUMOR CENTER—NEW HOPE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this year in the United States some 20,000 new cases of primary brain tumors will be diagnosed, and more than 100,000 cases of cancer migrating to the brain from a different site will be found. Traditional treatment regimens of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation have not stopped the natural progression of the disease in far too many cases, and new therapies are desperately needed.

Finding new treatments often means years of laboratory investigation, followed by both clinical trials and the examination of results, before such therapies can be deemed successful and made available to patients.

Speeding up this process is of vital importance to innumerable cancer patients. With this in mind, friends and family of David B. Hermelin have pledged \$10 million to launch a brain tumor research center at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Mr. Speaker, David Hermelin is the United States Ambassador to Norway, and earlier this year he was successfully treated for a brain tumor. Currently, he is undergoing therapy at the Henry Ford Hospital. The funds donated in his name will launch the Hermelin Brain Tumor Center, housed within the Department of Neurosurgery. The center will be directed by Mark L. Rosenblum, M.D., Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, and by Tom Mikkelsen, M.D., of the Departments of Neurology and Neurosurgery.

"The center at Henry Ford Hospital is now positioned to make a significant impact on this disease," said Dr. Rosenblum. "With state-of-the-art technology for diagnosis and surgery, with continual ability to provide the most advanced surgery and treatments available, and with new discoveries from our research team, we are confident we will be able to change life-threatening brain tumors into a chronic, controllable disease like diabetes."

The Hermelin Brain Tumor Center will support three main areas of novel investigation to help control brain tumors: (1) antiinvasion therapy (which stops a tumor from invading healthy brain tissues), (2) gene therapy (which uses scientifically engineered viruses which recognize and kill cancer cells), and (3) antiangiogenesis (which stops a tumor from building its network of blood vessels, effectively starving it). In addition, the Center will sponsor annual brain tumor workshops focusing on each of these three areas of research. Brain tumor scientists from around the world will be invited to share their knowledge and compete for a research grant, thus providing new ways to share novel findings and to use these findings to fund research that will bring new treatments to patients in the most rapid possible manner.

Mr. Speaker, David Hermelin is an outstanding citizen of our Nation, and as United States Ambassador to Norway, he has made an important contribution to strengthening traditional good relations between our country and Norway. In addition, he is a leading philanthropist who has spearheaded major fundraising efforts which have garnered millions of dollars for academic, medical, civic, religious and charitable organizations. The Hermelin Brain Tumor Center is a fitting and unique recognition of his generous contributions. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Ambassador David Hermelin and recognizing the importance of the Hermelin Brain Tumor Center.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district on September 21, 1999.

If I had been present for rollcall No. 427, I would have voted "yes" if I had been present for rollcall No. 428, I would have voted "yes" if I had been present for rollcall No. 429, I would have voted "yes"

RECOGNIZING ED HARRIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to recognize the hard work and tireless dedication of Principal Ed Harris to Edwardsville High School. He was recently named Illinois Principal of the Year by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. School District Superintendent, Ed Hightower, praised the principal's work. "[Harris] has made positive changes at the High School and has proven quality leadership in this position"

Ed Harris will continue his outstanding work this year at Edwardsville High School. His goals for the year will include maintaining the safety of students and staff, and ensuring that the administrators are visible and available to students.

A principal like Mr. Harris shows us what a difference individual attention and caring can do for our schools and our children. I would like to thank him for his great contribution to the school and the community.

A TRIBUTE TO BOB REED

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to recognize Bob Reed, who over the past 25 years has become a local institution as the "chairman of the bar" at one of the most pleasant eating establishments on Capitol Hill, the Monocle.

Nearly a generation of Members of Congress and others who toil on the Hill have found refuge in Bob's company. He is that rarest of personalities in this town: strictly non-partisan and unopinionated, a sympathetic ear for anyone, regardless of their politics or philosophy. For 25 years, he has always met his guests on a positive note—even during those times when there wasn't much to be positive about.

Bob was raised in West Virginia and enlisted in the Navy during World War II. He has resided in Washington since 1951. Since joining the Monocle in September 1974, he has been a friend to me and many other Members of Congress from both parties.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure you and my colleagues will join me in congratulating Bob Reed on his career milestone, and thank him for providing a quiet harbor from turbulent political seas.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF ROSA VERRETT WILSON

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Ms. Rosa

Verrett Wilson from Southwest Administration of the County of Los Angeles. Ms. Wilson worked for the Southwest Administration for 18 years before her retirement on June 30, 1999. During her long tenure with Southwest Administration, she never received a complaint about her work. Prior to her work with Southwest, Ms. Wilson spent 15 years working with Blue Cross of Southern California and 12 years in fashion in Seattle, Washington.

Ms. Wilson's good works are an inspiration to us all. For 24 years, Rosa Wilson has been a member of Mount Moriah Church. She met her husband, Brother Jordan H. Wilson, at Mount Moriah and has served on many church auxiliaries and committees. She has been a Sunday School teacher for the Nursery and Kindergarten Departments, a Vice-President of the Courtesy Committee, and a Program Chairperson for the California Baptist State Secretaries and Treasurers of the Los Angeles Area.

In 1987, Ms. Wilson, her husband, and their children, Carolyn Rence Wilson-Bowles and Keith Lamont Wilson, joined the Zoe Christian Fellowship of Los Angeles. Ms. Wilson is also a member of Alpha Christian Women Ministry. She has received several awards, including "Honored Mother of the Year" in 1983 and the "God's Woman Award" in 1994.

Rosa Wilson is also the founder of the Committed To Service Ministries at Southwest Administration. The group meets once a week to pray for the growth and success of the company and for healing. In addition, Ms. Wilson spends time visiting sick relative of co-workers and praying for their health.

I congratulate Ms. Wilson on her time with Southwest Administration and extend to her my best wishes as she begins an exciting new chapter in her life.

HONORING THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION OF CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of our men and women of the U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement division in the Cleveland National Forest in San Diego county's back country.

During the year 1996, twenty-two illegal immigrants died from exposure in the Cleveland National Forest. In 1997 nineteen died. Since 1996, Mr. Tommy LaNier, the Special Agent-in-Charge, of law enforcement for the forest and his team of dedicated officers have apprehended over 20,000 illegal aliens in the Cleveland Forest, potentially saving many immigrant's lives who could well have perished in hostile conditions.

The apprehension of illegals in the forest is also serving to prevent further ecological degradation to the forest. In addition, the strong law enforcement in the forest precludes portions of public lands from having to be closed to U.S. taxpaying families who want to visit our natural areas.

Foot trails in once pristine natural habitat have now been pounded into the forest floor

by as many as 300 illegal entrants in a given day passing through the Cleveland National Forest. These illegal trails grow deeper and deeper by the day causing erosion and irreparable damage to the forest. Contamination of streams is a major concern and in 1997 over eleven tons of trash left by illegal aliens passing through the forest had to be collected.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. Forest Service, nationwide, has more acreage and more visitors per year than the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service combined. The U.S. Forest Service has twice the number of violations to respond to with less than half the enforcement officers of the two previously mentioned agencies.

The Cleveland National Forest is unique in its locality; it lays contiguous to the Southwest U.S.A./Mexico border. The enhanced efforts of the U.S. Border Patrol in the San Diego area have pushed thousands of illegal aliens, heading North into the interior cities of the U.S., into this forest. Our defense against this invasion is a dedicated group of five U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The rate of incidence of illegal aliens campfires rose from 855 fires in 1996 to 1,044 in 1997. Law Enforcement officers have the dual burden of apprehending these illegal aliens so as to prevent their camp fires from breaking loose and endangering not only the forest, but also the illegals hiding in the forest. Fire damage is not the illegal's only threat to the forest. Degradation of the forest from the uncontrolled massive gathering of firewood for cooking and nighttime warming fires by thousands of trespassers in devastating and will take centuries to mend.

Mr. Speaker, Tommy LaNier and the Law Enforcement officers of the U.S. Forest Service have set a standard to which all law enforcement specifically, and public servants in general, can aspire. The efforts of these dedicated officers make it possible for taxpaying American citizens, from all walks of life, to safely enjoy some of the most beautiful forest area in our great nation. I invite all Members to stand with me in saluting the law enforcement efforts in the Cleveland National Forest by Tommy LaNier and his team.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 424, the DOD Authorization Conference Report, I was held up in a traffic accident. Had I been present I would have voted "yes".

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE W. "WILL" GAHAGAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to note the passing of a prominent

American citizen, George W. "Will" Gahagan, who died in Carmel, California on December 8, 1998 at the age of 86.

Will was a man of broad interests, and notable achievements. He was well-educated, graduating in 1949 from Dartmouth, and worked as a newspaper reporter, federal public relations officer and foreign press liaison officer at the 1945 inaugural United Nations conference in San Francisco. Will attended Harvard during his graduate years, and in 1957 received his master's degree from Stanford University. During his Dartmouth years he met the poet Robert Frost, who was on the faculty, and later founded the California Friends of Robert Frost, a non-profit organization that helped establish Frost Plaza in San Francisco, Mr. Frost's birthplace.

Will was an educator as much as he was a student. He taught English for 15 years at high schools, including Tularcitos, Junipero Serra High School and Santa Catalina School in Monterey. He also taught at an international school in Rome. His students benefited greatly from his tutelage and enthusiasm for learning.

Will's contributions to Monterey County were as far-reaching as his range of interests. He wrote a column "Word Wise" for the Monterey Herald, produced and hosted a foreign affairs television program in Salinas, and wrote a guidebook about the Monterey Peninsula. He worked with many local organizations including the Carmel Foundation, the World Affairs Council, the Carmel City Planning Commission and the Carmel Library. Will helped create the Dennis the Menace Playground in Monterey, and helped raise \$250,000 for the Robinson Jeffers Tor House in Carmel. He was a member of the senior and super-senior national tennis teams, successfully competing in tournaments in Canada and Europe. Will has been inducted into the Dartmouth College Athletic Hall of Fame.

No list of accomplishments can represent the generosity of spirit, the vitality, and the intelligence that Will demonstrated every day. Will is to be remembered as an exemplary human being. He is survived by his wife Lorna; his sons Michael and Mark; his daughters Tappy and Lissa; his brother John; and, seven grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

TRIBUTE TO EARL REEDER

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earl Reeder who is celebrating his 90th birthday this week. Earl was born on September 20, 1909, in Edgewood, IL., the son of Merrill and Myrtle (Hackney) Reeder. Earl is a lifelong Democrat and has dedicated over forty years of his life to public service. In celebration of his 90th birthday, a card shower was thrown for Earl and he has received well over a hundred birthday greetings; a testament to his popularity among his friends and neighbors.

Earl's career in public service has spanned over forty years and is a "public servant" in the true meaning of the term. He was made County Assessor in 1941 and resigned as Su-

pervisor effective September 9, 1982. Earl was on the Board of Review in 1961 and again in 1972. Earl also served as a precinct committeeman from around 1963 till his retirement in 1982. Throughout his career, Earl was always committed to the people he served and the Democratic Party he supported.

Mr. Speaker, Earl's dedication to public service is evident and I am commending him now for a lifetime of work. Earl is still a man who is in good health, has an excellent sense of humor and enjoys watching basketball and baseball. I encourage all my colleagues to join me now in wishing Earl a happy 90th birthday and a long and healthy future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 418, on September 14, 1999. Please let the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

WORLD STANDARDS DAY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today, the United States observes "World Standards Day."

Since 1970, World Standards Day has raised awareness of the need for international standardization in an increasingly global economy.

Harmonized technical standards provide open export markets for U.S. products. According to the Department of Commerce, standards play a role in \$150 billion worth of U.S. exports, and serve as a barrier to the export of between \$20 billion and \$40 billion worth of U.S. goods and services.

As other barriers to trade are torn down, non-harmonized technical standards are one of the last restraints on the free flow of international commerce.

World Standards Day is an example of how the public and private sectors can work together to ensure U.S. products and services are accepted in the global marketplace.

The co-chairs of the World Standards Day Committee are the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), a private institution, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

This type of public/private cooperation is crucial to ensure America's competitiveness in overseas markets.

Mr. Speaker, today, on World Standards Day, I ask the Congress to recognize the important role international standards play in our economy and in our international competitiveness.

RECOGNITION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY OF JOHN MAGNOTTE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100 years of John Magnotte's life. John was born on September 22, 1899, in Detroit Michigan. Today John lives in the beautiful community of St. Clair Shores where he settled in the 1950's.

John married Dorothy Fraquelle in 1927, and raised three children, two sons and a daughter, while working for General Motors for 30 years. Though he has been a widower for the last 10 years, Mr. Magnotte is today surrounded by five generations of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and even great-great grandchildren.

Mr. Magnotte is still very active in senior groups today, especially the St. Clair Shores Senior Cruisers Club. He is often found playing cards and socializing with the Cruisers, as well as the other senior groups in the area. He is always surrounded by friends and family and takes great pride in showing off the roses in his yard.

Besides his long life, we should recognize the experiences that John has acquired in his 100 years. He has lived through the administration of 18 different U.S. Presidents and the creation of five U.S. States. John went from the days of horse and buggy travel to witness space travel on television. Many of us can only dream of 100 years worth of visions and sights, a 100 years worth of character, a hundred years worth of emotions. John Magnotte's life is fit for framing, and should be cherished as a national treasure. I invite all of you to join me in honoring a true historian of the American Dream and wish John Magnotte a very happy one hundredth birthday.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND ALAN DAVIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of Reverend Alan Davis, an activist who fought in the interests of justice for the poor and the oppressed without counting the costs. Reverend Alan Davis dedicated his life to helping the underprivileged.

Reverend Davis spent more than 23 years serving as a pastor at St. Phillip's Christian Church on E. 30th St. near one of the city's poorest housing projects. He led the church community in providing emergency food supplies and tutoring for area families. During this time he was also the executive director of the City Club where he brought in diverse philosophers and speakers from around the world to discuss issues important to the club. As City Club executive director, and as pastor at St. Phillip's, Reverend Davis devoted much of his time to the Volgograd Forum, a free speech forum similar to the City Club in Volgograd, Russia.

As a veteran of World War II and serving in the signal corps, Reverend Davis dem-

onstrated his commitment to both God and country. From 1953 to 1961, Reverend Davis served at North Royalton Methodist Church and then moved on to Aldersgate Methodist Church in Warrensville until 1968. Since then he spent 23 years serving St. Phillip's Church in Cleveland.

His commitment also extended to serving society and defending the civil rights of all Americans. As a social activist he was associated with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and affiliated with numerous programs to feed and house the poor. Reverend Davis soon went on to Yale University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree and then a graduate's degree from Yale Divinity School in 1953.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing the passing of Reverend Alan Davis, a man who consistently and without pause adhered to the principles and values of God at the price of self-interest. Let us aspire in our own efforts to show such a commitment and passion to truth.

COMMEMORATING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the people of Armenia celebrated the eighth anniversary of their republic—honoring a national referendum in support of a free and democratic Republic of Armenia. Less than 1 month ago, I had the honor and the privilege of visiting this proud nation and would like to share with my colleagues what I learned about this nation whose culture and tradition dates back some three millennia.

Perhaps the most inspirational lesson I brought back concerns a terrible experience endured not only by the Armenian people, but by the world—the atrocities committed at the hands of the Ottoman Turks in the first decades of this century. Despite a cultural and political annihilation—indeed a genocide—the Armenian people have flourished as a defining culture in the Caucasus, in the United States, and on the world stage.

This resilience is evident in the Republic's rise from former captive nation under the Soviet empire state to independent democracy. As I learned on my recent trip, the Armenian people—in the United States and Armenia—have united behind the cause of a prosperous community and a productive nation. Today, Armenia is leading the region in development of infrastructure, technology and education.

As we celebrate this independence, I reflect on my meeting with the President of Armenia, Robert Kocharian. Through his efforts and those of his Azerbaijani colleague, Heidar Aliiev, the release of Armenian prisoners of war recently was secured. This is just one example of their work to end decades of bitter feuding in the region. President Kocharian also has guided his nation into a new era of education reform, of artistic rejuvenation and of economic development.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is built upon a foundation of freedom, democracy, and independence. The Republic of Armenia, I am proud to report, follows this same tradition.

The Armenian people have proven that the triumph of the human spirit—despite decades of war, of genocide, and of oppression—can not stifle the will of a people to make their world a better place to live. I am honored to represent one of the largest populations of ethnic Armenians outside Armenia, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have visited their homeland.

As we move toward a new century, and look back on the successes of our past, I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the remarkable achievements in the Republic of Armenia. To the Armenian people we send our respect and admiration on the occasion of your nation's eighth anniversary of independence.

BAPTIST CHURCH TARGETED BY AZERBAIJAN AUTHORITIES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I rise today to highlight a disturbing incident involving governmental harassment of religious believers in Azerbaijan. We have received reports of religious liberty violations perpetrated by governmental authorities. As a participating State of the OSCE, Azerbaijan has committed to insuring the freedom of individuals to profess and practice their religion. These recent governmental actions are a clear violation of Azerbaijan's OSCE commitment to the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.

On September 5th, government officials in Baku forced their way into a legally-registered church, Baku Baptist Church, and arrested sixty members of the religious group. The pastors of the church as well as a dozen foreigners were among those arrested and interrogated. The arrested Azeri religious believers were detained and asked to sign a statement affirming that they had attended an "illegal meeting" and promising not to attend the religious meetings in the future. Ultimately, two leaders of the church were sentenced to 15 days in prison on charges relating to resisting police. Likewise, then other foreign members of the religious group were charged with "engaging in religious propaganda" and "propagating against the Muslim faith," in violation of an Azeri law that forbids such activity. On September 8th, all ten foreigners were deported and more deportations are likely.

These events are alarming, Mr. Speaker. While there had been reports of governmental harassment in the past, especially of unregistered religious minority groups, these current events are especially problematic because the target of these actions was a legally registered religious group.

Mr. Speaker, these actions are in direct violation to Azerbaijan's OSCE commitments, including section 16 of the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document, which explicitly delineates the wide scope of activities protected, including the right to establish and maintain places of worship and granting them status under law to both profess and practice their faith. In the 1990 Copenhagen Concluding Document Article 9.1, Azerbaijan has reaffirmed "that everyone will have the right to freedom of expression, including the right to communication.

This right will include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers."

The actions by Azerbaijani officials clearly violate these commitments. I truly hope that these government actions are merely an aberration and will be dealt with accordingly and are not the signal of even more repression of religious believers in Azerbaijan.

I would like to commend to my colleagues the work of our Embassy in Baku on religious liberty. Embassy personnel have taken this recent incident very seriously and have followed the situation from the start. I urge those of my colleagues who interact with Azerbaijani Government officials to raise religious liberty issues in their discussions, stressing the essential role that religious liberty—and indeed human rights in general—play in maintaining a free, stable, and democratic civil society.

IN RECOGNITION OF 1999 LAWSUIT
ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK IN
THE STATE OF OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to an important designation this week in the state of Ohio. The week of Sunday, September 19 through Saturday, September 25, 1999, has been officially designated by Ohio Governor Bob Taft as lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week.

The 1999 Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week campaign attempts to better educate citizens throughout the state of Ohio about the ongoing concerns of the legal problems in our judicial system. During this campaign, the Ohio Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (OCALA) has undertaken a public awareness campaign to voice the concerns about lawsuit abuse and draw attention to the impact it has on the state of Ohio. Citizens from across the state have assisted with the campaign to help OCALA spread its message.

Mr. Speaker, the overwhelming rise in lawsuit abuse is not a concern specific to the state of Ohio. Certainly, these problems carry both state and national implications, which affect all Americans. In recent years, our society has become more prone to litigation. In fact, some statistics show the number of lawsuits filed each year approaching 300,000. The sheer number of these lawsuits requires millions of dollars in expenses and thousands of hours from employees. These figures demonstrate that lawsuit abuse is a heavy burden that interferes with our continued economic growth.

As lawsuits continue to climb in number and scope, the impact on our standard of living is evident. Frivolous lawsuits result in higher operating costs for businesses, the withdrawal of products from the marketplace, and the potential decline in growth and overall expansion. Simple economics shows us that these costs are inevitably passed along to consumers and workers in the form of higher prices, lost opportunities, and fewer jobs.

Mr. Speaker, lawsuit abuse is a serious issue facing the United States. As such, it is important for groups like OCALA to be recog-

nized for their efforts in curtailing this abuse. Dedication to change, like that shown by OCALA and other groups, will further the cause to end lawsuit abuse and bring about overall legal reform. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in recognizing the week of Sunday, September 19 through Saturday, September 25, 1999, as "Ohio Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week."

HONORING HILMAR MOORE

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor a man whose dedication and commitment to his community should not go unnoticed. Today, September 22, 1999, marks the 50th anniversary of Hilmar Moore's continuous service as the mayor of Richmond, TX.

The mayor's term is a unique one in Texas and the Nation's history. Mayor Hilmar Moore was appointed to serve an unexpired term for Richmond, TX, on September 22, 1949. Since then he has unselfishly served for the advancement of the community. Mayor Moore has deep-seeded Texas roots. He is descended from several of Stephen F. Austin's original colonists who settled Texas. In fact, Mayor Moore is a life member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. His family's strong commitment to community has lasted generations and many have served in State and local governments.

From 1970 to the present, the mayor has been and continues to be, a leader in the livestock community. He has served on the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association as second vice president, first vice president, and president from 1974–76. He has served on the Beef industry Council of Meat Board as vice chairman from 1979–81 and as chairman from 1981–83. In 1983–84, Mayor Moore served as treasurer of the National Livestock and Meat Board and in 1984–85 as chairman-elect. Also, in 1985, he was named Trustee Emeritus of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association. Mayor Moore has received numerous awards and recognitions from the National Livestock and Meat Board Association, Texas Brahman Breeders Association, and the Golden Spur Award. Presently, along with his mayoral duties Hilmar Moore is the director of the King Ranch.

I wish to extend to Mayor Hilmar Moore my heartfelt congratulations and I know my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives do so as well. It will be a pleasure to continue working with him for the improvement of the city of Richmond and the Fort Bend community.

JOHN NESPOLI HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. John L. Nespole, who has been named Community Leaders of the Year by the Arthritis Foundation of Eastern Pennsyl-

vania. I am proud to have been asked to participate in this event.

This prestigious award has been described by Arthritis Foundation Chairperson Deborah D. Hannon as an honor "presented to an individual who epitomizes the word 'leader' in both their personal and professional life. The recipient is someone who gives back to their community as a way of thanking them for achieving success in their own life."

John Nespole is the president and chief executive officer of Mercy Health Partners and one of the senior vice presidents of Catholic Healthcare Partners, which makes him responsible for a \$200 million health care system, including a tertiary referral center, community hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health care, physician group practice and managed care operations.

In addition, John serves on a large number of diverse community organizations. A native of Berwick, John is a dedicated professional with strong commitment to our region. He is the husband of the former Geri Kamps and the father of twins.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Arthritis Foundation for this year's choice for the "Community Leader of the Year" and am pleased to send my year very best wishes to John as he accepts this prestigious honor.

GEORGE NEAVOLL MAKES
THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTION TO
MAINE

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to George Neavoll, who edited the opinion pages of the Portland Press Herald and the Maine Sunday Telegram newspapers from 1991 until his retirement earlier this month. His readers, myself included, know that he leaves behind very large shoes to fill.

In the words of his colleagues, George Neavoll "set an unapologetically upbeat tone for the opinion pages, wrote extensively about the State's environment and worked to create a consciousness among Mainers that they live in the Atlantic Rim region."

During his time as editorial page editor, Mr. Neavoll championed many causes and highlighted problems in need of attention. From management of our fisheries and protection of our air, land, and water, to the return of passenger rail service in Maine and the need for improved East-West travel routes in our State, George Neavoll enhanced public discourse and made us think.

He also opened up the editorial board meetings to the public, and redesigned the editorial pages to provide more space for letters to the editor and more opportunity for local residents to submit columns.

Throughout his 30-year career in the newspaper business, Mr. Neavoll was recognized for his commitment to excellence numerous times. He received awards for writing, particularly in the areas of environmental protection and human rights. He received a Global Media Award from The Population Institute in 1996; a Human Rights Award from the Portland chapter of Amnesty International in 1995; and the first Portland Bias Crime Task Force's Diversity Bridge Building Award in 1995.

Although originally from Oregon, his obvious love for Maine and his concern for its people make George Neavoll a true Mainer. His impact on public policy, civic life and political dialogue will be remembered and appreciated for many years to come. I join his many friends and colleagues in offering George and his wife, Laney, best wishes for the future. They have made Maine a better place, and they richly deserve this opportunity to travel and spend time with their children.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE
BRADNER TOWN HALL AND
OPERA HOUSE ON THE OCCASION
OF ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNI-
VERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and privilege to rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding community from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On Sunday, September 19, 1999, the Village of Bradner will celebrate the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the Bradner Town Hall and Opera House.

In the final year of the Nineteenth Century, the citizens of Bradner decided to take an enormous step—to solidify their position and build a town hall. The Village embarked on a venture to locate a site, procure the necessary funding and materials, and build a truly remarkable building. Their efforts, after concluding the necessary paperwork, votes, and administrative matters, were finalized in 1899 as F.K. Hewitt was hired to design and J.W. Stiger hired to build the Bradner Town Hall.

The Bradner Town Hall has long been the centerpiece of this wonderful community. This small, yet vibrant area holds the same inner-strength found throughout the Fifth Congressional District and throughout the state of Ohio. That strength and common bond is driven from the town hall. For one-hundred years, the Bradner Town Hall has served as the focal point for the community, the symbol of independence and freedom, and the source of the community's pride.

With all its beauty, the Bradner Town Hall symbolizes all that is good in our communities—strength, fortitude, grace, and resilience. The Bradner Town Hall and Opera House has housed the Village fire department, jail, and public utilities offices. It also contains an upstairs Opera House and a library. Throughout the many changes, its use as the governmental center of Bradner has remained constant as it is home to the mayor's office and village council chambers. After first opening the building one-hundred years ago, the Village of Bradner conducts official business in the town hall to this day.

Mr. Speaker, the individuality of the American culture and the freedom of the American spirit are embodied in our local communities and the town halls located in them. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to the Bradner Town Hall on its One-Hundredth Anniversary.

HONORING BRUCE P. MARQUIS,
HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT CHIEF OF POLICE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Houston Independent School District "HISD" Police Chief Bruce P. Marquis for his outstanding contribution to the safety and well-being of our children attending HISD schools, which was recently highlighted in an article in the Wall Street Journal.

Since the day he took office in 1994, Chief Marquis has embraced a simple, guiding principle—to foster an environment, as he puts it, "for teaching and learning to take place." His work to make our Houston community schools safer for students and teachers has been nothing less than outstanding. Not only has he made our schools safer, but he has made our children feel safer. Chief Marquis is a strong believer in the concept that our children must feel secure in order to learn.

HISD officials made a forward-thinking decision 5 years ago when they created a new Police chief position for the schools and hired Bruce, who was distinguished by his extensive management experience and his background in law enforcement. A former agent in the FBI's Houston office, Bruce brought long-range vision and can-do pragmatism to the creation and management of HISD's police department. Only Texas and Florida State laws allow school districts to create their own police forces. Bruce has built the HISD police department from the ground up, expanding it into the largest in the state.

Since Chief Marquis took over, aggravated assaults in Houston schools have decreased by three-quarters, and weapons' violations are down by two-thirds. Chief Marquis' proactive and aggressive leadership became evident from the beginning of his tenure when he helped persuade the Texas Legislature to transfer authority over school police officers from principals to school police chiefs. Once that was done he made sure that HISD officers wore uniforms and badges, and that they carried guns just like community peace officers. Whether it's dealing with gang activity, drug deals or weapons, Marquis stations his officers throughout our schools to proactively stop problems before they start.

Other innovations Chief Marquis has helped institute include: HISD officers making arrests and keeping records, issuing citations for truancy and fighting, and jailing kids aged 17 and over for not paying fines. He went above and beyond duty when he extended his department's jurisdiction to include a shelter for battered women.

Chief Marquis's law enforcement credentials run deep. In addition to his 10 years with Houston's FBI office, he served as a former U.S. Air Force officer, chief of police at the Los Angeles Air Force Station, and security manager for the 1984 U.S. Olympic Games. Chief Marquis has put his experience and professionalism to good use for Houston's children. I am proud that my friends and constituents Bruce and his wife Traci Bransford-Marquis have chosen to share their spirit of giving with their community, and are teaching their two children those same values.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chief Marquis for his contributions toward ensuring our children are safer. To protect our students in today's increasingly violent society, Chief Marquis has transformed a loose coalition of school security guards with essentially no law enforcement tools into a modern, efficient team of officers who, armed with a full range of police training and expertise, form a network of safety within our Houston school district.

I insert in the RECORD at this point The Wall Street Journal article on Bruce Marquis which appeared September 20, 1999.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 20, 1999]

READING, WRITING AND MIRANDA RIGHTS:
COPS PATROL SCHOOLS

(By June Kronholz)

HOUSTON—Armed, trained in assault tactics, equipped with bulletproof vests and bomb-sniffing dogs, supported by and bomb-sniffing dogs, supported by 24-hour emergency dispatchers. Chief Bruce P. Marquis and his 177-member police department walk the country's highest-profile beat this fall.

They patrol public schools. Schools are safer than they have been in years, the U.S. Department of Education reports. Crimes against kids while they're in school are down by 20% in three years; one-third fewer children were suspended for bringing a gun to school in 1998 than the year before. Education Secretary Richard Riley calls schools the safest place for a child to be.

But the gun rampage in Littleton, Colo., the deadliest in a three-year string of school shootings, is the flip side of that good news, and has sent school districts rushing to upgrade their security. Kids returned to school to find metal detectors, fences, dress codes, security cameras. And, in the Houston schools, one thing more: a police department.

Forget the days when the football coach doubled as security chief, checking the boys' room for idlers and cigarette smoke. The Houston Independent School District Police Department stations armed officers in the 58 middle schools and high schools and many of the 35 magnet and other alternative schools in its 312-square-mile jurisdiction. It patrols school neighborhoods with bicycles and a fleet of squad cars, fields gang and drug task forces and operates a crime-scene communications van.

Over and over on a recent, stifling-hot afternoon, a new Special Response Team practices skulking down an alley below window level, crouching behind a bullet-proof shield and then, with guns drawn, rushing a stairwell to overwhelm an imaginary gunman.

CHAIN OF COMMAND

There is a horse-mounted unit for traffic control. An investigations division handles crimes short of rape and murder. Dispatchers fielded 14,000 calls last year. And heading it all is a 47-year-old former FBI agent who holds a doctorate in education, earns \$84,000 a year and has shaped his department down to the smallest details, including designing the uniforms and the department flag himself. Chief Marquis—so mindful of chain-of-command protocol that he and his longtime deputy address each other by their titles—offers this description of his job: "We exist for teaching and learning to take place."

Education is a local function in the U.S., so districts handle security in lots of different ways, and no one collects nation-wide information. Most districts, if they use any security at all, use armed local police, reasoning that because schools are part of the

community, they should be protected by community police. But some districts use police just to patrol the halls, while others ask them to run safety and counseling programs as well. Some pay local police with school funds; others depend on the police force to pay the costs and handle the administration.

In Texas and Florida, state laws allow school districts to create their own police forces, and 82 of the 1,042 school districts in Texas have done just that. With a budget of about \$12 million, the HISD police department is the largest in the State. But beyond that, Houston shows how the job of protecting school kids has expanded and become professionalized since the days when coaches patrolled the halls.

The starting salary for an HISD police officer is \$28,000, only about \$1,000 less than for Houston Police Department rookies. New hires must be graduates of a police-academy program, hold a police license and have 60 hours toward a college degree. By state law, officers receive at least 20 hours of training a year. Bike patrols and drug and gang specialists receive training beyond that. And the Special Response Team practices hostage rescues and school evacuations two days a month, including training with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SHAPING UP

That's a far cry from the department that Chief Marquis inherited in 1994—a "ragtag bunch" in mismatched uniforms, he says, who applied the decals to their squad cars themselves. Because Houston's schools use site-based management, giving principals control over some of the day-to-day details of running their schools, HISD policemen carried guns and wore uniforms in schools where principals favored them but didn't elsewhere.

Houston's superintendent, Rod Paige, says the school board decided to upgrade its policing when focus groups told it that middle-class parents, and particularly whites, were leaving the district because they viewed the schools as unsafe. Of Houston's 211,000 students, more than half are Hispanic, a third are African-American and three-quarters are poor. Big-city superintendents worry, says Dr. Paige, "that school districts so at odds demographically with the rest of the community" risk losing community support, especially financial support. And operating unsafe schools is one certain step on that path.

In the 1993-94 school year, HISD police reported 89 aggravated assaults, two murders, seven rapes and 244 cases of children carrying weapons to school. Hired mid-year, Chief Marquis already had been a U.S. Air Force officer, chief of police at the Los Angeles Air Force Station, security manager for the 1984 Olympic Games and a 10-year member of the FBI. The son of a San Francisco bus driver, he graduated from the University of Portland, earned a business degree from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles and got his doctorate from Texas Southern University in Houston. He expects to earn a second master's degree, in criminal-justice management, this spring, and after that is eyeing a program at Harvard.

Two years into his HISD job, Chief Marquis, a Democrat, ran for sheriff of heavily Republican Harris County and took a drubbing. But he moves easily in Houston's civic circles, from the YMCA to the rodeo, and entertains a steady stream of TV reporters who ask about the schools.

A typical Marquis day begins at 4 a.m. with a workout and allows for one cup of coffee, weekdays only. He does the cooking for his wife, a former Justice Department lawyer, and two small children, and sews a missing button on his daughter's dress before she leaves for preschool.

Still, the screen saver on his office computer declares "Always Forward." Vince Lombardi quotations hang framed on the wall ("What It Takes to Be No. 1"). And Chief Marquis delights in pushing the boundaries of his job description: He recently extended his department's jurisdiction to include a shelter for battered women, on whose board he sits, by reasoning that the children of the abused mothers probably attend Houston schools. "I'm not a status-quo kind of guy," he says.

BEARING ARMS

Indeed. Among his first changes, Chief Marquis helped persuade the Texas Legislature to put school police officers under the direction of school-police chiefs, taking them out of the orbit of principals. With that, HISD officers began wearing uniforms and badges—and carrying guns. Without guns, "they're not police officers," the chief says.

Where HISD police formerly backed up Houston police on calls in schools, now it's the other way around, with school police making the arrests and keeping the records, (although still using Houston police substations for bookings). Emergency dispatchers, who once routed 911 calls through the Houston police, now relay them directly to HISD. And four years ago, HISD police received the authority to issue citations: Disrupting school can bring a Class C citation that carries a \$400 municipal-court fine. Violating a 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. curfew—imposed by the city to keep kids off the street when they should be in school—can bring a \$250 fine. And citations for fighting can start at \$250 and soar to \$1,300.

At age 17, moreover, a youngster can be sent to jail for not paying his fines. "That gets their attention," says HISD Capt. Al Barnes. More important, he adds, it helps keep fights off the school grounds and out of the classrooms.

With site-based management, Houston's schools can decide to use their detectors and security cameras, and they can opt for school uniforms and bans on trench coats. Milby High School is banning denim this year, and because of thefts and fires in the lockers, Austin High has bolted them shut, which means students all carry around their days' books and supplies.

RANDOM SEARCHES

But to add to the schools' precautions, Chief Marquis also issues hand-held metal detectors to his officers and next year, will add computers to link them with headquarters—a converted telephone-company building—and into the records bureau. Prompted by the Littleton shootings, HISD will begin twice-monthly drug and weapons searches this year, randomly picking out a school and then two classes in that school for searchers. More typically, though, his officers linger at front doors as school begins each morning, picking up on tensions or bad moods. They wander hallways, shooing stragglers into class. They direct traffic at dismissal, breaking up knots of loiterers who might, out of idleness, start trouble. And they listen for word of gang fights, drug deals and weapons.

That word usually gets out, Officer Marvin Lee says with reassuring certainty, because "the good kids outweigh the bad kids." Officer Lee has patrolled Lamar High, a middle-class school with 3,000 students, for 15 years, and he has a clear sense of his job: "It's stepping out little fires before they become big fires."

Across town, a little fire appears to be smoldering at Yates High as a skinny sophomore is brought into the tiny police office, accused of kicking an assistant principal who has reprimanded him for not wearing

the regulation khaki pants. The parents have been called, and the teenager, clearly fearful of his stepfather, sits worried and resentful as Officer Ernest Lang outlines his strategy.

Officer Lang, who scored 33 touchdowns in his senior year at Yates in 1951 and is still known in Central Houston as "The Legend," plans to get the boy into the school ROTC program, and assigns a sleepy-looking senior nicknamed Wolf to serve as his mentor. An officer who knows the stepfather will look in at home from time to time, and a Baptist preacher who was tossed out of Yates 20 years ago but has returned as a counselor will work on the youngster's attitude. "We can reach him if we take the time," Officer Lang says easily. Then, as the parents arrive for a conference, he leans toward the youngster and warns: "Don't you act ugly now."

Juvenile crime has fallen nationwide in the past five years: In Houston's schools, aggravated assaults are down by three-quarters, and weapons' violations are down by two-thirds since Chief Marquis took his job. Dewey Cornell, a psychologist who studies youth violence at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, credits better policing for part of the decline. But he also credits a strong economy, the calming of the cocaine wars, success in arresting gang leaders, a federal law that mandates expulsion for bringing guns to school, and the spread of character-education and conflict-mediation programs.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Ten years ago, worried about what they saw as declining social and moral values, local business leaders raised \$2 million to fund one of the country's early character-education programs in Houston's schools. The idea is to teach values such as honesty and self-discipline as part of every class, says Dot Woodson, who was a University of Houston basketball coach before coming to HISD to head the program. So, in a class on the Boston Tea Party, she tells teachers to ask kids, "What would make you so angry that you would want to rebel, and what are the appropriate ways to rebel?"

In a decade, Houston has trained 16,000 of its teachers in character education and bought or written character-education curricula for all its schools. Ten state legislatures (although not Texas's) now mandate that schools teach character education, and six others encourage it. "This is the place to spend money," Virginia's Dr. Cornell insists.

Certainly, compared with hiring policemen, character education is cheap. Security is barely a blip on the \$1.2 billion budget of the Houston schools, but even so, the district sets aside \$9 million. Chief Marquis says his spending, which comes from several budget pots, actually is at least a third more, and even that doesn't include what the schools individually spend on security hardware. Meanwhile, Houston's character-education program is still operating, in part, off its original \$2 million grant.

With schools under huge pressure to raise standards and test scores, special-response teams and communications vans can seem like an extravagance—until they're needed, of course. Herbert Karpicke, principal of the 700-student High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, offers a tour while Chief Marquis is giving an interview in the school's video lab. Doors open onto a choir practice, a jazz band, a corps of ballerinas, dramatic soliloquies. Dr. Karpicke has persuaded the district to contribute \$15 million toward a new, larger school, but he has to raise the other \$15 million himself in the next five years, and he is wondering how.

Even this school—its hallways lined with cellos, its students hand-picked—has an

armed HISD police officer at the front door, though. Chief Marquis concedes the benefits of violence-prevention programs: They're "a spoke in the wheel," he says. "But as long as problems from the community come onto the campuses, the police are necessary," he says, and that means armed, trained and equipped officers. He is lobbying to hire 40 more.

TRIBUTE TO REV. ROBERT
TAYLOR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to an individual who spent his life not just preaching about the needs of the poor, but by doing something in meaningful ways to help meet the needs of the poor. Rev. Robert Taylor was a priest, a licensed clinical social worker and what we commonly call a community activist.

Father Taylor was an Episcopal Priest for decades in Chicago, he was one of the 15 priests fined and sentenced to jail after they had led a prayer pilgrimage in Jackson, Mississippi to protest segregation in 1961. Father Taylor spent about three weeks in jail but breach of peace charges were dropped.

St. Leonard's is a halfway house located on Washington and Hoyne on the westside of Chicago, in the Henry Horner Housing Project area across the street from the Mile Square Community Health Center where I worked for a number of years. Father Taylor began working at St. Leonard's House in the 1950's with ex-convicts and also worked as a chaplain at Cook County Jail. By the end of the decade, he had helped to build St. Leonard's from a small service for only a handful of ex-convicts to a well-regarded refuge for men looking to rebuild their lives. In 1963, he was appointed executive director and led St. Leonard's House until 1970.

When he first got involved with St. Leonard's House, Father Taylor lived with his wife and children at the westside halfway house in the midst of what was usually called a ghetto. He opened himself up to ex-offenders and helped them to get jobs. "He was one of the greatest priests I've ever known," said Father Jones. "When he gave his heart and soul to the ex-prisoners they learned that people were not all down on them." Father Taylor later joined the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago in 1980, as the director of the Office of Pastoral Care, in 1987, he became director of program and mission for the diocese. For years he worked with his wife, also a social worker, and together they helped scores of people overcome alcohol and drug addictions.

When you give of yourself that is when you truly give. Robert Taylor, an advocate for the poor, truly gave of himself.

THE MAINTAIN UNITED STATES
TRADE LAW RESOLUTION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with over 100 of my colleagues, intro-

duced the Maintain United States Trade (MUST) Law Resolution. This resolution will send a clear message to our trading partners that the President and the Congress will maintain our antidumping and countervailing duty laws. This measure will put the House on record as opposing the renegotiation of these critical trade laws at the upcoming Seattle round of the World Trade Organization. These laws are the cornerstone of a free and fair open market policy, and represent one of the few means of redress for American producers and workers.

According to the U.S. International Trade Association, as of March 1, 1999, over 290 products from 59 different countries were under antidumping and countervailing duty orders. Following my statement are a list of over 120 of these products. Throughout the steel crisis, antidumping and countervailing duty laws have represented one of the few means of relief for American steel workers. These laws are far reaching and affect countless products throughout the United States. It is imperative that the administration uphold these important trade laws at the WTO Seattle Round.

The World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference, to be held in Seattle from November 30 to December 3, 1999, will launch a new round of trade negotiations. These talks will focus on reshaping WTO rules regarding agriculture, services, and intellectual property. However, many foreign countries are seeking to expand the agenda in order to debate the WTO's antidumping and countervailing duty laws. The MUST Law Resolution will allow the Administration to attend the Seattle negotiations with a unified statement from the Congress declaring that the United States must not agree to reopen negotiations on any antidumping and countervailing duty laws.

The MUST Law Resolution will call upon the President to not participate in any international negotiation in which antidumping and subsidy rules are part of the negotiation agenda, refrain from submitting for congressional approval agreements that require changes to the current antidumping and countervailing duty laws and enforcement policies of the United States, and enforce the antidumping and countervailing duty laws vigorously in all pending and future cases.

We, as elected members of Congress, have the obligation to protect American producers and workers from unfair foreign trade practices. Consequently, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor and support this resolution to protect free and fair trade.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Canned Pineapple Fruit, In Shell Pistachios, Fresh Kiwifruit, Fresh, Chilled and Frozen Pork, Fresh Cut Flowers, Frozen Concentrated Orange Juice, Red Raspberries, Preserved Mushrooms, Live Swine, Lamb Meat, Sugar, Pasta, Codfish, Honey, Garlic, Rice, Wool, Agricultural Tillage Tools, Freshwater Crawfish Tailmeat, Fresh and Chilled Atlantic Salmon, Fresh Atlantic Groundfish.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

Dry-cleaning Machinery, Carbon Steel Wire Rod, Barbed Wire and Barbless Wire Strand, Line and Pressure Pipe, Oil Country Tubular Goods, Iron Construction Castings, Malleable Cast Iron Pipe Fittings, Brass Sheet and Strip, Industrial Nitrocellulose, Stainless Wire Rod, New Steel Rails, Tapered Roller Bearings, Heavy Forged Hand Tools,

Chrome-plated Lug Nuts, Tungsten Ore Concentrates, Compact Ductile Iron Waterworks Fittings, Helical Spring Lock Washers, Brake Rotors, Nitrile Rubber, Mechanical Transfer Presses, Drafting Machines and Parts Thereof, Gray Portland Cement and Cement Clinker, Gas Turbine Compressors, Extruded Rubber Thread, Low Fuming Brazing Copper Wire & Rod, Industrial Nitrocellulose, Industrial Phosphoric Acid, Professional Electric Cutting/sanding/grinding Tools, Collated Roofing Nails, Antifriction Bearings, Calcium Aluminate Cement & Cement Clinker, Large Newspaper Presses & Components, Industrial Belts, Industrial Phosphoric Acid, Pressure Sensitive Plastic Tape, Brass Fire Protection Products, Internal Combustion Industrial Forklift Trucks.

MANUFACTURING MATERIALS

Silicon Metal, Ferrosilicon, Silicomanganese, Elemental Sulphur, Pure and Alloy Magnesium, Potassium Permanganate, Chloropirrin, Barium Chloride, Manganese Metal, Sodium Thiosulfate, Sulfanilic Acid, Sebacic Acid, Furfuryl Alcohol, Glycine, Polyvinyl Alcohol, Sorbitol, Anhydrous Sodium Metasilicate, Granular Polytetrafluoroethylene Resin, Roller Chain Other than Bicycle, Methionine, Synthetic, Melamine in Crystal Form, Calcium Hypochlorite, Benzyle P-hydroxybenzoate, Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Film, Aramid Fiber of PPD-T, Uranium, Titanium Sponge, Ferrovandium and Nitrided Vanadium, Solid Urea, Animal Glue, Indigestible Gelatin, Electrolyte Manganese Dioxide, Persulfates.

COMMERCIAL AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Melamine Institutional Dinnerware, Porcelain-on-steel Cooking Ware, Top-of-the-stove Stainless Steel Cooking Ware, Aspirin, Leather, Spun Acrylic Yarn, Paper Clips, Pencils, Cased, Textiles, Castor Oil Products, Cotton Shop Towels, Petroleum Wax Candles, Natural Bristle Paint Brushes and Brush Heads, Coumarin, Greig Polyester Cotton Print Cloth, Sparklers.

TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS

Color Television Receivers, Telephone Systems and Subassemblies, Drams of 1 Megabit & above, Multiangle Laser Light Scattering Instrument Semiconductors, 3.5 Prime; Microdisks & Media Thereof, Static Random Access Memory, Random-access Memory Chips, Memory Semiconductors, Video Random Access Memory, Color Picture Tubes, Defrost Timers, Cellular Mobile Telephones & Subassemblies, Supercomputers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask that I might have a statement placed in the RECORD. On rollcall vote No. 430 on the bill H.R. 1402, I mistakenly voted "yes" when in fact I intended to vote "no" on this amendment.

TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this important human rights

bill that protects and provides hope to survivors of torture.

I join my colleagues in acknowledging the outstanding work of the center for Victims of torture (CVT) located in my home state of Minnesota. I had the honor of participating in a special event in Minnesota earlier this summer in celebration of the second United Nations International Day in Support of torture Victims by planting a tree that symbolizes the growth and healing that the CVT hopes to bring to survivors of torture. I commend the hard work and efforts of the CVT for treating these broken persons and injured spirits; trying to take away the living nightmares of these victims. They refer to this as "rising from the ashes," in terms of these broken spirits and broken bodies that are delivered to our shores and communities.

We must surely embrace these persons and give them protection from religious and political persecution. We must be cognizant of the fact that they are going to need more than just refuge in this country. They need a helping hand.

According to the CVT, it is estimated that as many as 400,000 victims of torture now reside in the United States, with an estimated 12,000 to 15,000 residing in Minnesota. The Center's clients have come from around the world—52 percent from Africa, 25 percent from South and Southeast Asia, 11 percent from Latin America, six percent from the Middle East and three percent from Eastern Europe. An estimated two-thirds of CVT clients are seeking asylum from persecution at the time they first contact the Center.

Many torture survivors suffer from severe psychological effects such as fear, guilt, nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety and depression. The debilitating nature of torture makes it extremely difficult for survivors to hold steady jobs, study for new professions and careers, or acquire other skills needed for a successful integration into our nation's culture and economy. Congress should provide hope for these talented, educated and productive people who were purposefully disabled by their own governments.

In response to this human suffering, I was a cosponsor of the Torture Victims Relief Act that was enacted into law last Congress, and I continue to strongly support this legislation in the 106th Congress. This Reauthorization builds upon last year's success and provides an important first step in healing the wounds of government-inflicted torture on individuals, their families and their communities. Specifically, this bill authorizes \$10 million for the next three years for grants to centers and programs that treat victims of torture in foreign countries and centers and programs in the United States that aid victims of torture. Such funds will cover the costs of supporting torture victims, including rehabilitation, social and legal services and research and training for health care providers. Furthermore, this legislation funds \$5 million per year for the U.S. contribution to the UN Voluntary Fund to find new and innovative ways to support torture victims treatment programs and encourage the development of such programs. Finally, this bill provides training for foreign service officers to help them identify torture and its effects upon innocent civilians.

Torture is a crime against humanity. It is the single most effective weapon against democracy. As members of Congress, it is our responsibility to protect and shield the world

from this strategic tool of repression. I urge all members to support this much needed Reauthorization which will respond to the evils of torture and its physical, social, emotional and spiritual consequences upon our communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 1999, H.R. 2909

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the "Intercountry Adoption Act of 1999" along with 36 of my colleagues. This is an important consumer measure that will protect American adoptive parents and the children from other nations they want to adopt.

This bipartisan bill provides the Executive Branch with the necessary authorities to implement the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

The Hague Convention was developed in response to abuses in the intercountry adoption process, including illegal child trafficking. The Hague Convention sets forth standards and procedures that can be recognized and followed by countries involved with intercountry adoptions. This legal framework provides protection to the adoptive children and their families by ensuring that agencies and individuals involved in the intercountry adoption process meet standards of competence, ethical behavior and financial soundness.

Americans are widely engaged in international adoptions. American adopted over 13,000 children internationally in 1997. By adopting the system developed by the Hague Convention, we can ensure that these adoptions are completed with a minimal risk of fraud, child abuse or illegal child trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, this bill adheres to two important principles. First, the legislation fully meets the requirements of the Hague Convention without attempting to reach beyond those requirements. Secondly, the bill does not override state laws on adoption except where it is absolutely necessary to conform with the Hague Convention.

Under our bill, the State Department will monitor intercountry adoption cases and liaise with foreign governments on behalf of adoptive parents. In addition, State will maintain a case registry to track all adoptions involving immigration of a child into the U.S. and all adoptions involving emigration from the U.S. to any other Convention country.

The bill also designates the Department of Health and Human Services with the responsibility of accrediting adoption service providers. It allows for HHS to designate one or more private, non-profit organizations to serve as accrediting entities. The bill also provides oversight authority and prescribes actions that can be taken by the Secretary of HHS should an accrediting agency or an accredited entity fail to comply with the standards.

My intention is to promptly move ahead with this legislation and the International Relations Committee plans to hold hearings on this legislation in the near future. I greatly appreciate the interest and assistance provided by my colleagues in crafting this bill. I look forward to

working with House members as we move this bill forward.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION OF 1999

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to join with my friend and colleague, the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee BENJAMIN GILMAN, in introducing the Intercountry Adoption Act of 1999, legislation to implement the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. His leadership on this important issue is a testament to his concern for the safety and well-being of children looking forward to permanent and loving adoptive families.

More and more, American couples are looking abroad as they seek to expand their families through adoption. The United States adopts more children than any other country. We're the land of opportunity, in so many ways, and intercountry adoption is yet another example of that fact. As the world's leader in adopting children of other countries, we have a responsibility to ensure that intercountry adoption take place in a way that guarantees the children's safety and fully protects the rights of both the adoptive parents and the birth parents.

For that reason, the United States in 1994 signed the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention, which establishes basic international procedures for concluding safe intercountry adoptions. We've heard too many stories about the small minority of unscrupulous agencies and individuals who have bribed parents or foreign officials, deceived prospective adoptive parents about the costs of an adoption or actually who the child is that they are adopting, and even stories about the selling of children. Though such horror stories are a small minority, we need to ensure that international standards are in place so only competent and law-abiding agencies and individuals are involved in intercountry adoptions.

The Intercountry Adoption Act, which we are introducing today, implements the Hague Convention. The bill's first main provision would establish the State Department as a "Central Authority," to monitor intercountry adoptions and provide assistance to adoptive parents in dealing with officials in other countries.

Secondly, the bill calls for the Department of Health and Human Services to designate one or more private, non-profit organizations to serve as accrediting bodies which would then accredit U.S. adoption service providers in accordance with strict standards of ethics, competence, and financial soundness. These accredited agencies could then facilitate intercountry adoptions in other countries under the Hague Treaty.

Mr. Speaker, we can be proud of our success domestically, in increasing adoptions here in the U.S. and decreasing the time many of our children spend in foster care. Our 1997 legislation, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, has led to enormous increases in domestic adoptions. The Intercountry Adoption Act takes the next step, to ensure that international adoptions are safe, and that they are

in the best interests of the child, the birth parents, and the adoptive parents. I look forward to working with Chairman GILMAN and other Members of Congress interested in international adoption, and I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this important legislation.

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Inter-Country Adoption Act of 1999, bipartisan legislation that has been introduced today. This legislation, of which I am an original co-sponsor, seeks to implement the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the "Hague Convention"), which the President transmitted to the Senate for its advice and consent on June 11, 1999.

For many years, children from across the world have found loving and nurturing homes here in the United States. American families have opened their arms to these needy children who might otherwise have remained orphans in their own countries. Likewise, while fewer in number, U.S. children are also placed with foreign nationals who seek to grow their families through adoption. And yet, amid the many shining examples of successful intercountry adoptions, there remain a substantial amount of cases where the results have not been as positive. For this reason, it is absolutely imperative that we take prompt action to ratify and implement the Hague Convention here in the United States—above all, to protect the rights of, and prevent abuses against, children, birth families and adoptive parents involved in inter-country adoptions. The Convention provides a legal framework whereby agencies and individuals would be required to meet internationally agreed upon standards of competence, financial soundness and ethical behavior.

The legislation before you today would also ensure that such adoptions are indeed in the children's best interests. Among other matters, it establishes a central point of contact for intercountry adoptions under the Convention, provides for minimum standards for agencies and other persons involved in facilitating intercountry adoptions, and includes stiff civil and criminal penalties for anyone involved in misconduct such as fraud relating to intercountry adoptions. Through these and other mechanisms, this bill would facilitate the Federal Government's efforts to assist U.S. citizens seeking to adopt children from abroad and residents of other Convention countries seeking to adopt children from the United States. At the same time, this bill seeks to achieve these objectives in a way that would not preempt state law except to the minimum extent necessary.

There is no reason why we should not take this important step towards safeguarding the rights of needy children, their birth parents and adoptive families. We must work together to strengthen international cooperation in adoption cases and do everything within our power to prevent abuses. I want to commend Chairman GILMAN for his work in introducing this

legislation, the many members who worked together to fashion a bipartisan bill, and all members who have joined us as original co-sponsors of this legislation.

Please join me in pledging your support for the Inter-Country Adoption Act of 1999.

HAGUE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud co-sponsor of the Hague Intercountry Adoption Act introduced today on behalf of thousands of children and adoptive families. After months of work, this bill represents a bipartisan approach to address only the issues necessary to implement the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. The future success of this bill dictates that we fulfill our obligations under the Hague Convention and leave all other matters for another time.

As an adoptive father, adoption is very close to my heart. My profound commitment to helping vulnerable children has been shown in legislation I have sponsored to promote adoption over the years. I am committed to helping children without parents in the U.S. and around the world join a loving home. The Hague Intercountry Adoption Act builds upon a foundation established by adoptive families in America. The willingness of many families to travel across the world to adopt orphaned children shows the true spirit of America.

Thousands of children worldwide are waiting helplessly for parents to read to them, to teach them how to tie shoe laces, to say bedtime prayers with them, and to eat ice-cream with them on a summer night. It is in the best interest for a child to be part of a loving family. Only as a last resort should intercountry adoption be a option. However, after all steps to place a child for adoption in their birth country are exhausted, intercountry adoption must be a viable and safe option for the children and adoptive parents. It takes a great deal of faith for one country to allow their children to be adopted by people from another country. As a result, officials in other countries are looking for accountability at a federal level to ensure the safety and rights of their children.

In the last year, I have met with several Members of the Russian Duma and the Director General of China Center on Adoption Affairs. I informed both delegations that the U.S. Congress places significant emphasis on the future of intercountry adoption. The Hague Intercountry Act specifically addresses the issue of a central authority in the U.S. State Department for other countries to contact in case there is a problem with an intercountry adoption.

Adoptive parents will benefit by an accreditation system required by all agencies who provide intercountry adoption services. A strong accreditation process will help prevent some people from taking advantage of vulnerable parents in the process of building a family through adoption. Adoptive parents in America deserve to know that their adoption agency has passed a vigorous and thorough accreditation standard.

Adoptive parents and government officials demand to know unethical behavior will not be

tolerated. The Hague Intercountry Adoption Act provides for civil money penalties up to \$25,000 for a first violation and up to \$50,000 for each subsequent violation by unscrupulous individuals and agencies.

In order to ensure ethical behavior for all involved, the above-mentioned civil penalties apply to any individual who provides adoption services in the United States in connection with Convention adoptions without proper accreditation or approval. Additionally, if one provide false statements, improperly induces consent from a birth mother to relinquish her parental rights or violates the privacy provisions contained in Section 401, they will also be subject to fines of up to \$25,000 and \$50,000. Criminal penalties in the same amounts will also apply for violations. The strong enforcement provisions included in the Hague Intercountry Adoption Act are a necessary tool to ensure penalties go far beyond the cost of merely doing business.

Rarely does Congress have an opportunity to improve the lives of children and families. The Hague Intercountry Adoption Act gives the U.S. Congress an opportunity to stand-up and reaffirm our support for intercountry adoption.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTER- COUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 1999

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with Chairman GILMAN and over 30 of our colleagues in introducing the Intercountry Adoption Act of 1999.

This bipartisan legislation will implement the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the "Hague Convention"), which the President transmitted to the Senate for its advice and consent on June 11, 1999.

Prompt U.S. ratification and implementation of the Hague Convention is of enormous importance to many thousands of needy children throughout the world and the American families who adopt them. The Convention establishes a legal framework for protecting these children and families by ensuring that agencies and individuals involved in the intercountry adoption process meet standards of competence, financial soundness, and ethical behavior. It creates a structure to strengthen international cooperation in adoption cases, and to ease the burdens of what can be an expensive, time-consuming and stressful process.

As the adoptive parent of a child born overseas, I know what the Convention will mean to countless families like mine.

The Intercountry Adoption Act provides a blueprint that will enable the United States to carry out its obligations under the Convention, ensuring reciprocal recognition of adoptions by the United States and other Convention countries, eliminating much current paperwork connected with the legalization of documents, and creating legally enforceable safeguards for adoptive children and their families.

The bill designates the Department of State as the "central authority" for the United States, with responsibility for liaison with the

central authorities of other Convention countries and the coordination of Convention activities by persons subject to U.S. jurisdiction.

The bill also assigns certain key functions to various domestic agencies, to be carried out in consultation with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of Health and Human Services is given responsibility for overseeing the accreditation and approval of organizations and individuals providing adoption services in the United States in connection with Convention adoptions. To the Attorney General are given various duties related to immigration, record keeping and privacy requirements.

This legislation is the culmination of many months of hard work, and is the result of extensive consultation with many parties, including the administration and the U.S. adoption community.

We have taken a "minimalist" approach to our task, deferring, wherever possible, to the state laws by which we have always regulated adoption in this country, and resisting attempts to use the bill as a vehicle for carrying out changes to domestic adoption practices at the federal level that are not required to bring our laws into compliance with the Convention.

Our goal throughout this process has been to put adoptive children first, through the prompt ratification and implementation of the Convention. We have done our utmost to steer clear of extraneous issues that might delay or derail that objective.

The International Relations Committee and the Committee on Ways and Means will shortly begin consideration of this legislation, and it is my sincere hope that the bill will move forward expeditiously in the same spirit of cooperation that has enabled us to reach this milestone.

AMERICA'S SENIORS DESERVE FAIRNESS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that drug manufacturers all across the nation have and continue to engage in the unfortunate practice of price discrimination. On the brunt end of this discrimination is our senior citizens, a constituency who by no means deserves this ill and insensitive treatment. Today, seniors who purchase their own prescription drugs are forced to pay twice as much for their drugs as the federal government and Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). This financial burden must be eliminated and this discrimination must come to an end. Fairness for our seniors can prevail by Congress addressing this situation now.

Price discrimination on the part of drug manufacturers in this country has brought devastating effects on older Americans. Acting on their vulnerability, drug manufacturers have taken advantage of older Americans while giving breaks to their most favored customers: the federal government and HMOs. The exorbitant cost of prescription drugs forces seniors to choose between buying food to feed themselves, paying the electric bill to warm their home in the brutal winter, and paying for the medications they so desperately need to stay healthy and well. It is not fair to put seniors,

who have limited and fixed incomes, in a situation of having to choose between life's necessities. Allowing this discrimination and unfairness to continue is simply wrong and only exacerbates this situation.

Mr. Speaker, there is a solution to this problem. Legislation crafted by my colleagues, TOM ALLEN, JIM TURNER, and MARION BERRY, will reduce prescription drug prices for older Americans by over 40 percent without any significant cost to the federal government. I am a proud co-sponsor of this important legislation, H.R. 664, the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act, which relies on market forces to lower the costs of prescription drugs for seniors. The bill would allow pharmacists to purchase drugs for senior citizens at the same price the federal government purchases prescription drugs through the Department of Veterans Affairs, Medicaid, or other programs. My constituents, especially the seniors on Guam know all too well the dilemma of acquiring needed medication without sacrificing the other essential necessities of life, strongly support this legislation and have called upon me to urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I want to particularly thank my colleague, Congressman TOM ALLEN, for his diligent work in bringing this issue to our attention, of his work in sponsoring this legislation and for his unwavering commitment to older Americans. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act receives its due consideration and reaches the floor for passage as soon as possible. Our senior citizens deserve no less than affordable medication and a Congress that cares.

DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE HITS TAIWAN

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, a devastating earthquake struck Taiwan earlier this week. The quake was centered 90 miles south of Taipei in Nantou county. Registering 7.6 on the Richter scale, the quake has claimed more than 1,800 lives and destroyed hundreds of homes. Thousands more are believed to be trapped in the rubble, and the death toll is expected to increase. Aftershocks continue to rumble through Taiwan.

The earthquake crippled Taiwan's infrastructure in the hardest hit areas. Phone, power and water lines were knocked out. Over 100,000 people were left homeless sleeping on blankets in makeshift shelter areas. Roads are barely usable as large gashes crisscross many of the main thoroughfares in central Taiwan making it extremely difficult for rescue workers to deliver aid.

I understand that a number of Americans may have family or friends in Taiwan. Many of them may be extremely worried due to the lack of information and the inability to contact them by phone. I call upon the U.S. Department of State and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office. Taiwan's de facto embassy in the U.S., to coordinate efforts to keep them informed of further developments and to provide all reasonable assistance in locating and determining the status of their family and friends.

The U.S. Agency for International Development, the lead U.S. agency for international humanitarian efforts, has activated a team of 100 search and rescue personnel and 106,000 pounds of equipment. They have also provided a general information number that can be reached at 1-800-USAID-RELIEF. I commend USAID for their swift and efficient response to this humanitarian disaster, and I am certain that they will continue to work closely with Taiwan to coordinate relief efforts.

USAID has indicated the transportation of relief goods to Taiwan is very difficult and inefficient at this time, so monetary donations are preferred. To that end, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office established the "Taiwan Earthquake Relief Fund" for individuals interested in providing support. Donations can be made to Riggs Bank, account number 17306006, 1913 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, 20016.

The U.S. is not the sole nation involved in the search and rescue effort. The response from the international community has also been swift. Switzerland, Germany, Singapore, Japan and Russia have all sent personnel and equipment to Taiwan to assist with search and rescue efforts.

All the rescue teams are working non-stop to comb through the rubble in search of survivors. God bless them for their tireless and courageous efforts.

My thoughts and prayers are with them all in the aftermath of this tragic disaster.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LETTER CALLS FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN INDIA

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, last month several of my colleagues and I sent a letter to Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee calling for the release of political prisoners in India. So far we have received no response.

According to Amnesty International, thousands of political prisoners are being held in illegal detention without charge or trial. Several Sikh political prisoners wrote a letter from the Nabha Security jail on the Sikh Nation's 300th anniversary in which they urged Sikhs to get involved in getting them released. Some of these Sikh political prisoners have been held since 1984. Fifteen years in illegal detention without charge or trials is the tactic of a police state, not of the democracy India claims to be.

Our letter reminds the Indian leader that if India is going to proclaim its democratic principles, it should release all political prisoners and bring the police who have committed atrocities against the Sikhs to justice. If it does not, we should be ready to take appropriate action to deprive India of the privileges that accrue to democratic and friendly countries.

If India continues to oppress its minorities and hold thousands of political prisoners without charge of trial, America should stop aid and trade to the repressive Indian regime. In addition, we should support self-determination for all the nations and peoples of South Asia. This is the way to ensure that all the people and nations of South Asia may live in freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Congressional letter to Prime Minister Vajpayee into the RECORD.

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 30, 1999.

Hon. ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE,
Prime Minister of India, Chanakyapuri, New
Delhi, India.

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER: We are very disturbed by a recent Amnesty International report that thousands of political prisoners are being held in Indian prisons without charge or trial. In a democracy, there should not be political prisoners.

In addition, a group of political prisoners held at Nabha Security Jail wrote to the Sikhs earlier this year asking for help in getting them released. There are thousands of Sikh political prisoners being held in India. Some Sikh political prisoners have been held since 1984 without charge or trial. How can a country that proclaims its support for democratic principles continue to hold political prisoners?

Human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa wrote a report showing that tens of thousands of Sikhs were abducted, tortured, murdered, and declared "unidentified," then their bodies were cremated. After Mr. Khalsa published this report, he was kidnapped by the police and they killed him six weeks later, according to a witness. The police responsible for this act have never been punished, despite a court order. Neither has Swaran Singh Ghotna, the police officer responsible for the torture and murder of Akal Takht Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, who was torn in half.

Mr. Khalsa's findings were confirmed by a recently-issued report from the Committee for Coordination on Disappearances in Punjab, which issued an "interim report" that identifies at least 838 cases of arbitrary execution and secret cremation. These are not the acts of a democratic country.

As members of the United States Congress, we will be watching with interest the actions that you take. If these kinds of acts continue, we will be forced to consider cutting off American aid and trade to India. We expect a democratic state like India to live up to the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns, Dan Burton, William Jefferson, Roscoe Bartlett, John T. Doolittle, Jack Metcalf, Sam Farr, George Radanovich, Eni Faleomavaega, Bobby L. Rush, James Traficant, Wally Herger, Gary Condit, Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Peter King, J.C. Watts, Donald Payne, Cynthia McKinney, Brian P. Bilbray, Major R. Owens, Bernard Sanders, Richard Pombo, Albert R. Wynn, Carlos Romero-Barceló, James Rogan, Duke Cunningham, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, David McIntosh, Collin C. Peterson.

THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join my colleagues from both sides of the aisle today in introducing the Intercountry Adoption Act. By providing for the implementation of the Hague Convention, this legislation will help unite American families with waiting children from around the world.

For years, American families have reached across cultural and national boundaries to embrace children through international adoption. In 1998 alone, almost 16,000 children were adopted by Americans from abroad. By signing the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, the United States and over 60 other nations recognized the importance of international adoption. The Hague Convention creates a structure to strengthen cooperation among nations in adoption and protects adoptive families from fraud and abuse.

Although the United States signed the Hague Convention in 1994, Congress has yet to ratify and implement the Convention. The Intercountry Adoption Act, by providing for the enactment of the Hague Convention, would strengthen the process that builds thousands of international adoptive families every year. Our legislation sends a strong signal that the United States is committed to providing permanent homes for its own children and for children all across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the Hague Convention promotes cooperation among national governments, but its most significant impact is deeply personal. My own family was forever changed and enriched by the adoption of our two children from Korea. I am profoundly grateful to have Kathryn and Scott in my life. The legislation we introduce today will allow me to express my gratitude by aiding efforts to unite every waiting child in every nation with a "forever family."

SPANISH PEAKS WILDERNESS ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to make additional remarks regarding the bill H.R. 898, the Spanish Peaks Wilderness Act of 1999, which I had the pleasure of introducing and sponsoring in Congress this year.

This legislation will give permanent protection, in the form of wilderness, to the heart of the beautiful Spanish Peaks area in Colorado. The bill is cosponsored by several of my colleagues from Colorado, including Mr. SCHAFER, whose district includes the portion of the Spanish Peaks within Las Animas County. I am also pleased to be joined by Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. MARK UDALL of Colorado. I greatly appreciate their assistance and support.

Also, across the Capitol, Senator ALLARD has introduced an identical companion bill. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Senator for his active support of this worthwhile legislation. I would also like to thank Chairman YOUNG and Subcommittee Chairwoman CHENOWETH for their work in the Committee on Resources to get this bill through committee quickly and onto the floor.

Finally, I would offer a note of appreciation and thanks to the former Members of Congress whose efforts made today's legislation possible. First, approximately 20 years ago, Senator William Armstrong of Colorado began this worthwhile process by proposing wilder-

ness in Colorado, and in 1986, Senator Armstrong proposed protected status and management for the Spanish Peaks. His efforts set in place the foundation upon which today's bill is built. Second, I would like to thank the former Congressman from the Second District of Colorado, Mr. Skaggs. Together, he and I introduced this legislation in the 105th Congress, which passed the House but due to time constraints did not pass the Senate. The efforts by both of these individual legislators helped make this bill possible.

The mountains known as the Spanish Peaks are two volcanic peaks in Las Animas and Huerfano Counties. The eastern peak rises to 12,683 feet above sea level, while the summit of the western peak reaches 13,626 feet. The two served as landmarks for native Americans as well as some of Colorado's other early settlers.

With this history, it's not surprising that the Spanish Peaks portion of the San Isabel National Forest was included in 1977 on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks. The Spanish Peaks area has outstanding scenic, geologic, and wilderness values, including a spectacular system of over 250 free-standing dikes and ramps of volcanic materials radiating from the peaks. The lands covered by this bill are not only beautiful and part of a rich heritage, but also provide an excellent source of recreation. The State of Colorado has designated the Spanish Peaks as a natural area, and they are a popular destination for hikers seeking an opportunity to enjoy an unmatched vista of southeastern Colorado's mountains and plains.

The Forest Service originally reviewed and recommended the Spanish Peaks area for possible wilderness designation in 1979. The process since then has involved several steps, and during that time, the Forest Service has been able to acquire most of the inholdings within Spanish Peaks area. So the way is now clear for Congress to finish the job and designate the Spanish Peaks area as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The bill before the House would designate as wilderness about 18,000 acres of the San Isabel National Forest, including both of the Spanish Peaks as well as the slopes below and between them. This includes most of the lands originally recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service, but with boundary revisions that will exclude some private lands. I would like to note that Senator ALLARD and I have made significant efforts to address local concerns about the wilderness designation, including: (1) adjusting the boundary slightly to exclude certain lands that are likely to have the capacity for mineral production; and (2) excluding from the wilderness a road used by locals for access to the beauty of the Spanish Peaks. Senator ALLARD and I did not act to introduce this bill until a local consensus was achieved on the wilderness designation.

The bill itself is very simple. It would just add the Spanish Peaks area to the list of areas designated as wilderness by the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993. As a result, all the provisions of that act—including the provisions related to water—would apply to the Spanish Peaks area just as they do to the other areas on that list. Like all the areas now on that list, the Spanish Peaks area covered by this bill is a headwaters area, which for all practical purposes eliminates the possibility of water conflicts. There are no water diversions within the area.

Mr. Speaker, I close my statement by thanking all of my fellow members for your time and by urging all Members of the House to support of passage of H.R. 989.

STUDENT PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, as kids get settled in to school this year, I want to make sure that they and their parents are aware of a disturbing trend taking place on campuses across the country.

Companies are increasingly entering the classroom to acquire hard-to-get information about the purchasing preferences and personal habits of young people. They are doing this because kids aged 4 through 12 are the hottest market group being targeted by retailers and others.

The problem is, kids do not always know if they are divulging personal information, and parents may not know that their children are spending part of their school day teaching companies how best to target young people.

That is why I am introducing legislation today that will protect student privacy and parents' rights to information about their children's education.

The legislation would prohibit schools from letting students participate in various forms of market research at school without their parent's written permission. My bill also would require a broad study of commercial involvement in the classroom.

I am proud to have the support of Consumers Union and the National Parent Teacher Association in this effort. The PTA has been a leader in supporting efforts to improve educational quality and Consumers Union has been a champion of consumer privacy.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Normally, we do not think of privacy and educational quality as issues that overlap. But the fact that both these groups are here today illustrates how market research in schools touches upon a range of issues that concern diverse groups.

As you know, there is a growing concern over privacy in this country, where Americans are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that the benefits of new technology can also lead to a loss of control over personal, medical and financial information.

I hear about this concern all the time. I support efforts by my colleagues to restore the privacy protections most of us have taken for granted.

Another major concern that nearly everyone in California and the Nation is talking about is the quality of our young children's education. For good reason, most Americans believe that our schools are not doing enough to prepare kids for the difficult challenges that lie ahead.

Educational quality and privacy concerns come together when private companies seek out the hotly contested youth market. Kids aged 4 to 12 directly spent more than \$24 billion and influenced their parents to spend \$187 billion in 1997, according to a Texas A&M study.

The classroom is fast becoming a preferred site to learn about student purchasing preferences because, "That's where the kids are," says Alex Molnar, director of the Center for Analysis of Commercialism in Education at the University of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

According to the promotional literature for ZapMe! Corporation, a company that offers free computers to schools, "Children in grades K-12 are arguably the toughest audience for marketers to reach and quite possibly the most valuable . . . Pinpoint targeting of such an elusive audience is made possible via the most revolutionary educational medium in the world, the ZapMe! Knowledge Network." James Twitchell, author of *ADULT USA*, for advertisers, said that when it comes to kids in schools, "It doesn't get any better. These people have not bought cars. They have not chosen the kind of toothpaste they will use. This audience is Valhalla. It's the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

Students should go to school to learn, not to provide companies an edge in a hot market. But increasing numbers of companies are targeting schools as the best place to learn the purchasing preferences of young people. Unfortunately, they can do this today without the permission of parents, and sometimes without the knowledge of the students themselves.

Parents have a right to know how their children are spending their days at school. If parents do not want their children to be objects of market research firms while in school, they should have the right to say no. My bill gives parents that right.

By requiring parental consent for a student to contribute to any market research in school, students and parents will be able to retain more control over how the school day is spent and will be able to make an informed decision as to whether to reveal personal information that private companies otherwise might not be able to obtain.

Existing school privacy laws only protect official records and research funded by the Federal Department of Education. Current law leaves a loophole for companies to go into classrooms to get information directly from kids without parental consent. This information is then sold to advertisers and marketers, who use it to target students.

Consider these examples of the growing trend of using the classroom to solicit personal information from kids for market research:

Kids in a New Jersey elementary school filled out a 27-page booklet called "My All About Me Journal" as part of a marketing survey for a cable television channel.

Elementary school students in Kansas answered marketing questions over the school computer.

Students in a Massachusetts elementary school spent two days tasting cereal and answering an opinion poll.

The ZapMe! Corporation provides schools with free computers but then monitors students' web browsing habits, breaking the data down by age, sex and ZIP code.

Students in Honolulu schools divulge extensive buying habit information to the private company that runs its SmartCard system. The cards are used as student IDs as well as a means to purchase school supplies, concession stand items and school lunches. Promotional arrangements are also linked to the card.

It is clear that companies have a powerful incentive to go into class to solicit information

from kids. My legislation will ensure that parents retain the ultimate authority to determine if they want their kids to participate in this type of activity at school and thereby help protect the parent-child relationship.

By raising the issue of commercialism in the classroom, my goal is not to usurp local decision-making by schools, but rather to protect parents and students and encourage an informed discussion of all of the costs and benefits of these arrangements.

NORTH CAROLINA HURRICANE FLOYD DISASTER RECOVERY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the courage and tenacity of the citizens of my birthplace, the great State of North Carolina. They have endured, over the last few days, one of our Nation's worst natural disasters: Hurricane Floyd. I also want to lend my support to their recovery efforts.

As fellow Brooklynite Jackie Robinson once resonated, "a life means nothing except for the impact it has on others." At this moment, we must all reach out and lend a helping hand to North Carolina.

Although the impact of Hurricane Floyd was felt from the Bahamas to New England, North Carolina has shouldered the brunt of the storm. Governor Jim Hunt of North Carolina reported that at least 10,000 people are in shelters, an estimated 1,500 people are still stranded, and that preliminary property damage figures may exceed \$1.3 billion. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has predicted that this could be the most challenging recovery effort in the organization's history. Unfortunately, it has become painfully clear that Hurricane Floyd, combined with Hurricane Dennis, is shaping up to be the worst disaster North Carolina has ever witnessed.

So today I rise to say that this is not just a North Carolina problem; this is a national problem. We must all work together to ensure that the citizens of the great Tar Heel state fully recover from this unforgettable event.

That is why I will join with Congresswoman EVA CLAYTON of North Carolina and other members of Congress to send a legislative package that will provide further relief to the Hurricane survivors. I have also called North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt's office, which recently organized the N.C. Hurricane Floyd Relief Fund, to determine what other immediate assistance is needed. As we speak, thousands of people urgently need bottled water, non-perishable foods, clothing and bedding. For those who want to lend a helping hand, the donation hotline number is 1-888-786-7601.

Mr. Speaker, let us all take a moment out of our busy lives to remember North Carolina. To the citizens of North Carolina, I want you to know that you have my unwavering support. May God bless you.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY AMERICAN
HUNGARIAN DEMOCRATS' 25TH
SILVER ANNIVERSARY DINNER
DANCE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 26th, the Middlesex County, NJ, American Hungarian Democratic Organization will be holding its twenty-fifth Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Victorian Manor in Edison, NJ. I am proud to pay tribute to this exciting event and the great organization behind it.

The highlights of the event will include the presentation of the Anthony M. Yelencsis Memorial Citizen Award to Steve J. Yelencsis, brother of former Mayor Anthony M. Yelencsis of Edison, the founder of the Middlesex County American Hungarian Democratic Organization. The award will be presented by Anton Yelencsis, Tony's son.

The Anthony M. Yelencsis Memorial Scholarship Award is presented to high school graduates of Hungarian lineage who exhibit excellent scholastic achievements and other distinguished activities and service during their school years. This year, the award will be presented to Valentine S. Tarr by his uncle, Steven Tarr, the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee.

In addition, the Distinguished Service Awards will be presented to Helen R. Gottlieb, Middlesex County and Edison Democratic Vice-Chairwoman by Dr. Thomas H. Paterniti, Edison Chairman, and to Edison Councilman William A. Kruczak by Edison Councilman Peter J. Barnes III for their contributions to the community and to the organization.

Mr. Speaker, the Hungarian-American community in Middlesex County is one of the largest in the Nation. The members of this community continue to make their mark on the community in numerous ways. When Hungarians left their homeland for the promise of America, particularly in response to the imposition of Communist tyranny, Middlesex County was one of the major areas that provided a home and a sense of hope for the future. The Hungarian immigrants and their sons and daughters, in turn, have contributed mightily to the growth and development of Central Jersey through their hard work and commitment to family and community.

While Hungarian-Americans have become an integral part of the larger American community, thoughts about the great Magyar motherland are still in their hearts and minds. Fortunately, we live in very exciting and hopeful times for the development and renewal of the Hungarian society and the steady improvement of U.S.-Hungary ties. It's hard to believe for some, impossible to forget for others, that just a few years ago the people of Hungary were trapped by the harsh realities of the Cold War, which they did not create but which nonetheless dominated their existence.

Hungary was a leader among Central European nations in establishing a democratic system, before the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the last decade, Hungary has steadily transformed itself into an independent, democratic, market-oriented society, integrated into Europe and the international trading network, a member of

NATO and a serious candidate for membership in the European Union. Unlike other areas of Europe where ancient hatreds have been allowed to fester, Hungary has worked to repair damaged relations with its neighbor Romania. Hungary, in particular among its neighbors, has shown an impressive degree of stability. Even during the Cold War, Hungary worked very hard against tough odds to establish itself as a society independent of Soviet domination in certain key political and economic spheres, and was granted Most Favored Nation status by the U.S. in 1978. Free and fair elections and a proliferation of political parties allow Hungarians of all viewpoints to participate in society. Even parties affiliated with former Communists maintain a commitment to maintaining integration with Western institutions.

A sister-city relationship has been established between New Brunswick, the county seat of Middlesex County, and Debrecen, Hungary, an arrangement to benefit the people of both communities. Developing business partnerships between New Jersey and Hungary will be good for business on both sides of the Atlantic, creating jobs and providing an increased flow of, and access to, goods and services. It's also good for peace and stability, removing the shadow of fear and suspicion that so often got in the way of U.S.-Hungarian relations during the bad old days of the Cold War.

I also want to pay special tribute to Hungary for its contributions to NATO in the operations in the former Yugoslavia, and in taking in refugees from those terrible conflicts. The instability in many of the surrounding lands will continue to test the ability of the new Hungarian democracy to be a force of stability. I am confident that democracy, civil and human rights and a healthy growing economy will triumph in Hungary, given the strong character, values and traditions of the Hungarian people and the help and support from the United States and other Western democracies.

To the leaders and members of the Middlesex County American Hungarian Democratic Organization, I say, Kosonon! (Thank you) and Egeszsegere! (To your health).

TRIBUTE TO LA AGENCIA DE ORCI
AND ASOCIADOS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to a new business which is locating and office on my Congressional District. La Agencia de Orci and Asociados, is one of the most successful Hispanic owner and operated advertising agencies in the United States and I pay tribute to them for their vision and commitment to better serve the needs of the Hispanic/Latino and other communities.

Established in 1986, in Los Angeles, California, La Agencia de Orci and Asociados opened offices (today), in Chicago, Illinois at 401 N. Michigan Avenue to better provide service to its clients in the Midwest and throughout the Country. The people and the business community of Chicago, unique in their diversity, will greatly benefit from La

Agencia's innovative marketing philosophies such as "Share of Heart." Acknowledged as 1998, Established Business of the Year by the Latin Business Association, La Agencia clients include Allstate Insurance, American Honda, Bell Atlantic, Hormel Foods, Ricosito Corn, Shell Oil and Washington Mutual.

This tribute is to recognize and honor the individuals who have demonstrated leadership, volunteerism and dedication. La Agencia de Orci Partners, Hector Orci and Norma Orci, founders and co-chairs, Roberto Orci, President, and Mariene Garcia, Executive Vice-President are committed to their industry leadership. La Agencia was instrumental in forming the Association of Hispanic Advertising Agencies (AHAA) with Hector Orci elected as its founding President. Actively engaged in building relationships with organizations in meaningful ways, La Agencia consistently develops solutions that make a positive difference for individuals and communities throughout our country.

La Agencia and their 83 agency associates actively participate in cultural and civic programs by providing award winning pro bono advertising to the United Way, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF). The National Association of Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). Census 1990 and 2000, and the Children's Bureau of Southern California.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to La Agencia de Orci as they continue their extraordinary commitment to the community. They have earned and deserve our recognition, respect, and praise.

HONORING MR. JEROME COHEN,
SOUTHTOWN COUNCIL 1999 AMERICAN
CITIZEN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary Kansas Citizen and extraordinary friend, Mr. Jerome Cohen. This week Jerry Cohen will be recognized as the Southtown Council's 1999 American Citizen for his historic record of civic service and volunteerism. This philanthropy and devotion to our community is an extraordinary model for all of us to follow. It is often said that Jerry's life is the consummate 20th Century Horatio Alger's story. He created a successful business and then focused on charity and helping those most in need. This tribute acknowledges his amazing capacity to give and the monumental impact he continues to have in our community.

Annually, the Southtown Council nominates an outstanding leader whose efforts greatly serve the area. This year's beneficiary of their American Citizen award, Jerry Cohen, is no exception. Born to Lithuanian immigrant parents and equipped with a strong work ethic, Jerry Cohen built a prosperous modern copier and business machine enterprise. Our community recognizes his friendship and an amazing six decades worth of charitable support to organizations like the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund, the Starlight Theatre, the Shriners, the Liberty Memorial, the Parks and Recreation

Department, the American Humanities Foundation, and the Boy Scouts of America.

The Southtown Council was created by businesses, organizations, neighborhood associations to address the community concerns of Southtown Kansas City specifically from 47th to 75th Street and Prospect to Main Street. The Southtown Council has a 17 year record of philanthropy and is committed to the public development of South Kansas City. Mr. Cohen's involvement as a civic and business leader supports the Council's remarkable success and mission to preserve the priceless legacy not just of Southtown Kansas City but of the Greater Kansas City area as well.

I take great pride in knowing Jerry Cohen as a friend and mentor. Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Jerry Cohen as a model American Citizen.

THE DAKOTA WATER RESOURCES
ACT OF 1999

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a revised version of the Dakota

Water Resources Act of 1999. The bill I introduced today makes important changes to legislation I introduced earlier this year, H.R. 1137. In addition to technical clarifications, the vast majority of these changes represent the culmination of an agreement reached between the state of North Dakota and the Administration which lead to the Administration's support of the bill. I want to highlight the key items of agreement incorporated into the bill that I am introducing today.

First, this improved Dakota Water Resources Act provides \$200 million in funding for statewide municipal, rural and industrial (MR&I) program, a \$100 million reduction from H.R. 1137. Further, the bill clarifies that if a MR&I revolving loan fund is established, the funds will be treated as federal funds, therefore requiring compliance with federal laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Additionally, the bill today removes the \$40 million in authorized funding for the replacement of the Four Bears Bridge across an arm of Lake Sakakawea on the Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation contained in H.R. 1137.

The bill also includes a provision to ensure the interests of Canada are met. Prior to the construction of any water delivery system to deliver Missouri River water into the Hudson

Bay Basin, the Secretary of Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, must determine that adequate treatment can be provided.

Further, the State of North Dakota would be required to pay a pro-rata share of the operation, maintenance and replacement (OM&R) costs on existing principal supply works, including associated mitigation, based on a percentage of capacity use. Secondly, the state would pay 100 percent of OM&R on all new facilities with the exception of facilities required to meet treaty obligations or those for compliance with Reclamation law. Further, the state would be required to pay for all energy costs to authorized facilities.

Finally, the bill eliminates the provision in H.R. 1137 which linked the full funding of the Natural Resources Trust to the completion of the Red River Valley project.

Mr. Speaker, the Dakota Water Resources Act today represents a broad consensus among various interests across the state of North Dakota and the Administration. I believe that the changes made today further improve the bill and will ensure that we are able to meet North Dakota's future water needs.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Veterans Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
To hold hearings on Parkinson's disease research and treatment.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine public ownership of the United States stock market issues.

SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings on the nomination of Michael J. Frazier, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation; the nomination of Stephen D. Van Beek, of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation; and the nomination of Linda Joan Morgan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works

Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee

To hold hearings on the proposed fiscal year 2000 budget request for the General Services Administration and the Courthouse construction program.

SD-406

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the disarray in the international community, focusing on facing Saddam's Iraq.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Judiciary

Youth Violence Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine effective juvenile intervention programs.

SD-226

SEPTEMBER 29

9 a.m.

Small Business

Business meeting to consider proposed legislation regarding women owned businesses.

SR-428A

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 1508, to provide technical and legal assistance for tribal justice systems and members of Indian tribes.

SR-485

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1501, to improve motor carrier safety.

SR-253

Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings on pending calendar business.

SD-406

10 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings on biotechnology issues.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Water and Power Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings on the practices of the Bureau of Reclamation regarding operations and maintenance costs and contract renewals.

SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine national technical information services issues.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 30

9 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to review the Administration's agriculture agenda for the upcoming World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle.

SR-328A

9:30 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Consumer Affairs, Foreign Commerce, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1130, to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to liability of motor vehicle rental or leasing companies for the negligent operation of rented or leased motor vehicles.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 1457, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to assess opportunities to increase carbon storage on national forests derived from the public domain and to facilitate voluntary and accurate reporting of forest projects that reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations.

SD-366

OCTOBER 6

9 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to review public policy related to biotechnology, focusing on domestic approval process, benefits of biotechnology and an emphasis on challenges facing farmers to segregation of product.

SR-328A

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-485

OCTOBER 7

9 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to review public policy related to biotechnology, focusing on domestic approval process, benefits of biotechnology and an emphasis on challenges facing farmers to segregation of product.

SR-328A